

AUG 15 VERDICT
Now Farooq, Mohiuddin seek review
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rest two of the five detained convicts in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case yesterday filed petitions with the Supreme Court seeking review of its judgment confirming their death sentence.

Condemned prisoners Syed Farooq Rahman and Mohiuddin Ahmed submitted separate review petitions through their lawyers.

Of the three other detained convicts on death row, Bazlul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed filed review petitions on January 10 and Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan on January 12.

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Mega dredging plan for over 300 rivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has massive plans to dredge all 310 rivers of the country to bring back navigability, control floods and ensure proper irrigation, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen told the House yesterday.

While replying to queries of lawmakers who described the sorry state of many rivers, the water resources minister also said four mega projects worth about Tk 5,000 crore to this effect are under the process for approval.

The projects are: the pilot capital dredging of river system in Bangladesh (first phase) worth Tk 1,445.51 crore, Buriganga recovery project worth Tk 1,514.95 crore, purchasing of dredgers and ancillary equipment for dredging

Work to start with 4 major rivers; Tk 5,000cr projects on cards



rivers with a cost of Tk 1,593.68 crore and coordinated irrigation, extraction and flood control project worth Tk 378.52 crore.

"Of the rivers, dredging work will begin

very soon in four major rivers--Jamuna, Meghna, Brahmaputra and the Padma," the minister said, adding that once the dredging job is completed in these rivers, a number of small rivers will get its benefit.

He said the government has also taken up four short-term projects along with the mega projects to carry out dredging in rivers and control floods.

The government has already formulated a strategy paper with an expenditure of Tk 50 crore to carry out short-term, mid-term and long-term dredging in major rivers, the water resources minister said.

"On approval of the strategy, preparation of projects, their approval and implantation process will start," he said.

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Home minister warns of stern action
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said stern actions will be taken against those responsible for creating unrest in the educational institutions.

"The government will deal with them with an iron hand to ensure peaceful atmosphere on the campus by any means. We don't want to see any armed cadre on the campus," the home minister told the House in a statement.

Sahara described Monday's clash at DU as internal rivalry of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of opposition BNP.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia chose leaders of one faction of JCD depriving the other faction that triggered the

VIOLENCE AT DU
Cops hunt for armed cadres
8 JCD men, 300 others sued
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police last night launched a hunt for those involved in Monday's gunfight on Dhaka University campus.

Earlier in the day, law enforcement and intelligence agencies had identified some 10 activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Bangladesh Chhatra League who were photographed wielding firearms on the campus.

Monirul Islam, deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star at around 12:45am, "We are on a drive to track them down."

DMP sources said the police high command yesterday blasted the officials who were on duty on the campus during the clashes between JCD factions and did not take any measures to quell violence or arrest those carrying arms openly.

Rapped by the home ministry, the police authorities asked top DMP officials including the DC-Ramna to arrest the culprits immediately.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 16

411 more cases to be dropped
BSS, Dhaka

The government sponsored high-powered committee yesterday recommended the authorities concerned for withdrawal of 411 more cases considering those politically motivated.

The decision came at the 12th meeting of the committee held at the home ministry with State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Kamrul Islam in the chair.

With yesterday's recommendation, the committee so far suggested the withdrawal

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina places a wreath on the body of veteran Indian politician Jyoti Basu at the Bidhan Sabha Bhaban in Kolkata yesterday.

'Larger than life'
Hasina pays tributes to Jyoti Basu at state funeral
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kolkata

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday paid her last respects to late CPI (M) leader Jyoti Basu, by placing a wreath on his body and describing him as a 'larger than life' personality who had made an immense contribution to the liberation war of Bangladesh.

Veteran leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and India's longest-serving chief minister, Jyoti Basu, who had died in Kolkata on Sunday at the age of 95, was given a state funeral and a tearful adieu here yesterday.

This was the first time an Indian communist leader was given a state funeral, which had last been given to Mother Teresa.

Hasina, who flew into Kolkata by a special flight from Dhaka at 12:10pm leading a 30-member delegation, went straight to the West Bengal state legislative assembly where Basu's body, wrapped in Indian national flag, was kept on a makeshift dais in the lobby.

Accompanied by four of her cabinet colleagues, Hasina stepped into the lobby around 1:25pm and placed a wreath of white flowers on Basu who had died in a hospital after losing a 16-day battle with illness caused by a pneumonia attack.

Hasina's cabinet colleagues Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Industry Minister Dilip Barua, Deputy Leader of Jatiya Sangsad Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, and LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam also placed wreaths on Basu.

As the prime minister paid the homage, two Indian army soldiers stood guard on either side of the dais containing the mortal remains of the departed leader.

Bangladesh's former president HM Ershad, who also arrived in Kolkata on the same flight as Hasina, also placed a wreath on Basu after filing past the body separately. Ershad had studied in a school and college in West Bengal's Coochbehar district.

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GRAFT PROBE BY JS
HC bench feels 'embarrassed' to hear Sircar's writ petition
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday felt "embarrassed" to hear the writ petition filed by former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar challenging the legality of a parliamentary probe body's decision to recover "misappropriated" money from him through the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The HC bench comprised of Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mamnoon Rahman sent a petition to Chief Justice Md Tafazzul Islam for an appropriate order in this regard.

Sircar repeatedly urged the bench to hear his petition partly yesterday and adjourn

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CTG TEST
India take command
BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong

India bounced back strongly to seize the control of the first Test at the end of the third day's play following poor batting show from the Tigers at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday.

Mahmudullah Riyad (69) and Mushfiqur Rahim (44) struck 108 runs for the seventh wicket, but it was not good enough for the hosts to overtake the tourists' total of 243 as they were bundled out for 242 runs minutes after the tea break. They had resumed the day on 59 for three.

India finished the day with an overall advantage of 123 as they reached 122 for the loss of one wicket of stand-in skipper Virender Sehwag, who once again became victim of left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan. Sehwag was caught at square leg, but before that the dashing right-hander had smashed four boundaries and a six to make 45 from 58 deliveries.

Runs came thick and fast for the visitors as the brilliant sunshine offered a good track to bat on. Left-hander Gautam Gambhir was not out on 47 while night watchman Amit

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PHOTO ON PAGE 16

Govt to enact law to regulate civil service

Draft expected in May

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will enact a civil service act to regulate appointment, promotion, transfer and terms and conditions in the public service, LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam told parliament yesterday.

Though the constitution prescribes that the House legislate to regulate the appointment and conditions of service for those working for the republic, there has not yet been any act to

that end.

In the absence of a law, successive governments exercised the rules made by the president regarding appointments and terms of jobs of the public servants.

"The draft of the law is expected to be complete in May," said Ashrafur, also in charge of parliamentary business for the establishment ministry.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, the LGRD

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BDR MUTINY
Trial begins in Satkhira
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The trial of BDR mutiny at 7 Rifle Battalion in Nildumur of Shyamnagar upazila began here yesterday with the deposition of seven among forty prosecution witnesses.

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Bitter cold takes toll on children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sufferings of people due to chilly weather may continue for two more days with the dense fog and wind persisting.

The shivering cold over last few days left many down with pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory illnesses, children and the aged being the worst-affected as usual.

In the winter, rotavirus becomes more active to be the main reason for children's sufferings from cold and diarrhoea, doctors say.

Two persons--Shukjan Bibi, 82, and Rahima Khatun, 72--died of cold-related diseases in Debhata upazila of Satkhira

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JAMUNA FUTURE PARK
Rajuk won't take any step till Thursday
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The lawyer for Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday assured the High Court (HC) that Rajuk would not take any step to demolish the unauthorised floors of Jamuna Future Park shopping complex until Thursday.

Rajuk on January 13 had served a notice upon Jamuna

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PROSHIKA HQ
Cops asked to hand over keys to incumbent ED
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the police to hand over the keys of Proshika Bhaban at Mirpur to its Executive Director Mahbubul Karim within two days.

The court also issued a rule upon the government and Qazi Faruque Ahmed, former chairman of the NGO, to explain within four weeks why their actions in taking control of the Bhaban and its keys despite a status quo order should not be declared illegal.

On August 11 last year the HC in a verdict issued the status quo and directed that Proshika would be run as

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