

Did you know? The Sydney Opera House, a multi-venue performing arts centre in Sydney, Australia, was conceived and largely built by Danish architect Jørn Utzon, who, in 2003, received the Pritzker Prize, architecture's highest honor. It is one of the 20th century's most distinctive buildings and one of the most famous performing arts centers in the world.



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BANGABANDHU KILLERS Jamaat, Shibir want to foil execution Sahara tells JS
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday in parliament said Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) had stocked arms in Chittagong to carry out subversive activities to hinder the execution of Bangabandhu murder case verdict and trial of war criminals.

"Militancy and subversive and criminal activities will not be tolerated in the country. We will handle those with an iron fist."

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Delwar rejects PM's remarks on Zia's grave
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday outright rejected the prime minister's remark on late president Ziaur Rahman's grave at Zia Uddin in the city terming the statement "unexpected, irresponsible and baseless".

At a press conference at the party's Naya Paltan office the BNP leader said that having failed to run the country properly, the Awami League government has now started making "irrelevant and false" statements.

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BANGABANDHU CASE SC to hear all review pleas on Jan 24
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Appellate Division will hear on January 24 all the review petitions filed by five detained convicted killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman against its judgement confirming their death sentences.

An Appellate Division bench yesterday fixed the date for hearing petitions filed by two condemned prisoners--Syed Farooq Rahman and Mohiuddin Ahmed--against the SC judgment.

Earlier on January 13, the apex court fixed the same date for hearing the review petitions filed by three other convicts--Bazul Huda, AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed and Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan.

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BDR TRIAL Statements of 5 witnesses recorded
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Five more prosecution witnesses yesterday gave statements before the BDR Special Court-1 in connection with the February 26 BDR mutiny at 7 Rifle Battalion at Nildumur in Satkhira.

The witnesses are Azihar Rahman of Nildumur village, Liakat Hossain of Burigoalini village and others.

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OnlinePoll

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that ruling Awami League men are responsible for the unrest at Dhaka University?

Yes (29.9%)
No (68.5%)
No Comments (1.6%)

Total votes: 1379

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think expansion of Dhaka will help ease the city's traffic congestion and utility crises?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net



Thousands of devotees have started seeking accommodation under the large canopy set up on the river Turag at Tongi as Biswa Ijtema begins today. Around 20 lakh Muslims, including more than one lakh women, from across the world are expected to attend the three-day congregation this year.

Bidding process starts for Meghnaghat-2

Govt team to visit S'pore, US to attract \$5b investment in energy sector

STAR REPORT

The Power Development Board (PDB) yesterday floated pre-qualification (PQ) document seeking qualified power developers to install a dual fuel 300 to 450 megawatt power plant in Meghnaghat.

The floating of PQ document coincides with a government expert team's upcoming visit to Singapore and New York on January 25-26 and January 28-29 to attract investors in some large-scale energy projects. These projects include the Meghnaghat project dubbed as Meghnaghat 2.

"Till now, these large projects were all on papers. Now that we have floated a PQ document on Meghnaghat 2, investors will realise our seriousness," said PDB Chairman Alamgir Kabir last night.

The PDB was seeking clearance of three PQ documents for Meghnaghat-2, Bibiyana-2, a 450 MW project, and Bhola 150 MW power projects. The ministry gave PDB a verbal go-ahead for the Meghnaghat 2 yesterday. "The rest will be okayed after we return from the road show," Kabir added.

The road show seeks \$ 5 billion investment for nine power projects of more than 3200 MW capacity plus a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal to import canned gas.

The PQ for Meghnaghat 2 has some relaxed criteria to encourage greater participation of bidders.

Earlier, for a power company to qualify for a similar bid, the PDB sought the developer's experience of installing and commissioning of power plant of at least 300 MW capacity. Now the PDB seeks experience of installing plant of at least 200 MW capacity.

Moreover, the lead bidder must have a net financial strength of at least \$ 100 million. Now the PDB allows adding net financial worth of partner bidders with the financial status of the lead bidder in order to show that they have combined net worth of at least \$ 100 million. In that case, the partner bidder must have at least a 20 percent stake.

The lead sponsor must have 51 percent shares. If the lead sponsor does not have enough experience, it can show the experience of its consortium partner in

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Gang members tell their tale

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The 12 members of a Mirpur-based gang arrested recently with firearms worked on monthly pay ranging between Tk 6,000 to Tk 12,000.

The gangsters with accurate shooting skill get the highest Tk 12,000 a month. Their gang leader through a coordinator makes other payments for food and travels during an operation.

Besides, the chief also pays for the legal procedures if an operative is arrested.

These were revealed by officials of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-4 who arrested the 12 of the Taj gang during a seven-hour raid till 9:00am yesterday. Some of the arrestees are hitmen of the gang, the Rab officials said.

The 12 were paraded before the media at a press conference organised by Rab-4 at its Mirpur headquarters.

The arrestees have told Rab their coordinator Obaidullah usually assigns the hitmen to cover three to four operations every month.

The hitmen are provided with firearms and bombs prior to an operation and when the job is done they return the weapons to the coordinator.

"Usually we shoot at targets in the legs and hands and create panic by blasting bombs so that the victims pay us tolls," one of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Another Kaptai dam for power generation Govt seeks US help
UNB, Dhaka

The government sought assistance from the USA in power sector for building another Kaptai dam for doubling hydropower generation from the lake waters in Rangamati hill district.

State Minister for Environment Hasan Mahmud sought the help when US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Patrick Moon met with him at his office yesterday.

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Power import from India to start thru' Kushtia border
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Ramkrishnapur under Bheramara upazila in Kushtia has been primarily selected for setting up of 250KV power sub-station aiming electricity import from India.

A four-member team visited the location on Tuesday. Ishtiaq Hasan, project manager of Bangladesh Power Grid Company, led the team.

Sources said the team finalised its report recommending the location as the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Playwright Sayeed Ahmed no more
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted theatre personality, art critic and playwright Sayeed Ahmed died at Labaid Hospital in the capital yesterday around 5:00am. He was 79.

Sayeed was suffering from complications related to old age and was admitted to the hospital recently.

Born in 1931, Sayeed Ahmed started his career in London as a musician for BBC. His most illustrious plays are Kalbela (1962), Milepost (1964), Trishnaye (1969), Ek Din Protidin (1975), Shesh Nawab (1987).

He received Bangla Academy Award in 1975 and the Legion d'honneur from the French government in 1993. His plays have been translated into English, French, German and Italian.

Different organisations and individuals paid deep condolence at the death of Ahmed. Bangla Academy, Revolutionary Workers Party

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SEE MORE ON PAGE 9

Representatives demand free upazila parishad

Declare programmes to realise 10-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Upazila parishad chairmen and vice chairmen yesterday announced a course of action to realise their 10-point demand including establishment of upazila parishad as an autonomous body by amending laws.

Abdul Majid, upazila chairman of Sauria in Manikganj, announced the programme from a meeting of upazila parishad chairmen and vice chairmen at the Mahanagar Natyamancha in the city to mark the first anniversary of upazila parishad election.

The 10-point demand, announced earlier, also includes filling up of one-third reserved posts for women immediately, removal of obstacles to exercising power by upazila chairman as chief executive and carrying responsibility by a vice-chairman in absence of chairman, announcing separate national budget for the local government, reorganisation of zila parishad and enacting a "mother law" for all the tiers of local government.

As part of the programme announced to realise their demands, the upazila chairmen and vice chairmen will form human chain and hold rallies at every upazila across the country on March 1 this year and in every district on March 15 simultaneously.

They will form a human chain and hold a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, Dhaka on March 30 and will submit a memorandum to the prime minister on that day. They will decide further course of action after submitting the memo.

The leaders of Bangladesh Upazila Chairmen Forum will bring out protest marches all over the country from February 7 to 28 and hold rallies in different districts.

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DU VIOLENCE No headway in arrest drives
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even after four days of the fierce clashes at Dhaka University campus, the police could not make any headway in the drives to arrest the armed criminals involved in the clashes on Monday.

However, police yesterday placed one of the suspects Saiduzzaman Pasha, who was photographed, in different dailies, with firearms during the violence, before a Dhaka Court.

The court later sent another suspect identified as Samir Haider Sumon, a mechanic of an electronic shop, to the jail.

The Rapid Action

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Govt mulls Razakars' list
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering preparing a list of Al-Badr, Razakar, Al-Shams and leaders of peace committees who opposed the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Ministry ABM Tajul

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

India launches offensive to net Maoist leaders

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

Thousands of paramilitary personnel have launched a crackdown to target some 50 Maoist leaders across the country in a bid to crush what is described as India's biggest internal security challenge.

"We would be breaking the neck (of the Maoist movement) by arresting all their senior leaders like Kishenji," a highly placed official in the security establishment said in an interview.

"We believe there could be around 50 such leaders scattered all over. We are targeting them to make the entire movement headless and make a serious dent," the official told IANS.

"With this it would be relatively easy to take on the rest of Maoist guerrillas," the official added, providing for the first time operational details of the coordinated and sweeping security drive.

As of now, operations are under way in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal and Maharashtra -- five states where the outlawed Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) is most active, mainly among tribals living in remote interiors who are among the poorest of the poor.

The operational methods would, however, differ from the way Sri Lanka's military crushed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) last year, it was pointed out.

"We are not going for any operations where innocent lives are put at risk. Do not expect us to launch similar actions in which the LTTE was eliminated. We have our own strategies," said the official who did not want his name and designation to be revealed.

Another official said that a total of 42 battalions from the Border Security Force (BSF), the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Prayer Timing

January 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-43	5-47
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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