

BRAC BANK ROBBERY Two JMB men get seven years' RI

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced two members of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to seven years' rigorous imprisonment for using explosives during a robbery in 2005 at the Brac Bank Limited under Kotalipara upazila in Gopalganj.

Judge Mohammad Rezaul Islam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 handed down the sentence in presence of the convicts Tariqul Islam and Masum Mia.

The tribunal ordered to send them to jail cancelling their bails, obtained earlier from another court.

They were also fined Tk 5,000, in default, will have to serve another six months in jail.

The tribunal acquitted five others as the charges brought against them were not proved.

Earlier in September, the case was shifted to the tribunal from Gopalganj Sessions Court for its quick disposal.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence had completed their arguments and the tribunal recorded statements of 18 prosecution witnesses.

Talking to The Daily Star, Special Public Prosecutor SM Rafiqul Islam said all the accused are members of JMB. But defence lawyers termed it false and fabricated.

According to the prosecution, on January 17, 2005, a gang of robbers numbering 15 to 20 had looted cash, six motorbikes, bicycles, and other valuable goods from the Brac Bank office near Kotalipara Municipality.

A police team, led by sub-inspector (SI) Asad-Uz-Zaman, stopped the gang on the Kotalipara-Banshabaria road and recovered pistols, bayonets, hand-made bombs and sharp-edged metal weapons from their possession.

Following the incidents, three cases -- one for robbery, one for possessing explosives and the other for possessing firearms -- were filed with Kotalipara Police Station the following day.

The robbery case is pending with a Gopalganj Sessions Court while the arms case is with the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1, Dhaka.

BDR MUTINY 88 bullets recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-2) recovered 88 rounds of bullets, which were looted by Bangladesh Rifles mutineers, from Moneshwar Lane in the city's Hazaribagh area yesterday.

Shafiqul Sarwar, operation officer of Rab-2 and assistant superintendent of police (ASP) said on a tip-off a Rab team led by ASP Saikat Shaheen dug out the bullets which was wrapped with polythene near a graveyard around 6:30pm.

Major Nurul Amin of Rab-2 said earlier they recovered 2400 ammunitions and four rifles, looted from BDR headquarters, from Hazaribagh, Jigatala and Mohammadpur area after the BDR mutiny.

He added they made such recoveries on information given by locals whose names and address are not disclosed.



CCC mulls 2 shifts for rickshaws

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor M Manjur Alam yesterday said they are planning to start double shift system for rickshaws in the port city in a bid to reduce traffic jam.

He said this while speaking he was speaking at a view exchange meeting with the related sectors of the city's traffic system at K B Abdus Satter Auditorium. Mayor Manjur presided over the meeting while Deputy Commissioner of Traffic Faruk Ahmed was present.

Engineer Ali Asraf, chairman of Planners Forum for Chittagong, engineer Subhas Barua, member of Planners Forum Chittagong and CCC Chief Engineer Rafiqul Islam placed different proposals to reduce the traffic jam at the meeting.

Mentioning about the double shift for rickshaws' Manjur said, "We will fix two colours of rickshaws for each shift which will help check the system."

The Mayor said there are around two lakh rickshaws in the city, of them, only 35,000 have license, which is responsible for traffic jam.

To stop this trend CCC decided to issue new licence for 35,000 more have rickshaws, he said adding that no unlicensed rickshaw will be allowed to ply the city streets.



WHY TAKING IT OUT ON INNOCENT ?

Agitating students of Dhaka University yesterday take to the streets and damage about 27 vehicles as a private car hit and injured one of their fellow students on the campus. (Related story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR



WEBSITE ON BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE Baksal was formed for people's welfare

Says Justice Manik

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, a sitting judge of the High Court, said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman formed Baksal in 1975 to unite the nation for the welfare of the people, and even Ziaur Rahman was a member of the party.

He told a function at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) yesterday on the occasion of launching of a website on the Bangabandhu murder case.

SM Abdul Hossain, a journalist, initiated the website as www.bangabandhucasedoc.com.

Shamsuddin Chowdhury said five High Court judges had felt embarrassed to hear the Bangabandhu murder case without mentioning any reason, which was not rational.

He said the judges have right to feel embarrassed to hear any case due to specific reasons, but feeling embarrassed to hear the Bangabandhu murder case without any reason has no logic.

Perhaps the judges felt embarrassed due to their reluctance to the case, he said.

The judge said there is no confusion about the Appellate Division and High Court Division judgements on the fifth amendment of the constitution, saying that the courts have cancelled the fifth amendment as it was against the constitution.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof Khandker Bazlul Hoque, Editor-in-Chief of Boishakhi television Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, editor of the daily Bhorer Kagaj Shyamal Dutta, and DRU General Secretary Pathik Saha also spoke at the function.

DU Kha unit viva postponed

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) Kha unit admission viva, scheduled for tomorrow, has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique told The Daily Star that new dates for the subject distribution of arts and social science faculties among the qualifiers will be announced soon on newspapers and official website of the university.



Photo exhibition

A photo exhibition on top of the Everest by Musa Ibrahim will be inaugurated. Venue: Alliance de Francaise, Dhanmondi, Time: 5:30pm.

Nazrul utshab

Nazrul Academy will organise a Nazrul utshab. Venue: Nazrul Bhaban, Moghbazar, Time: 6:00pm.

Meeting

Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement will hold a meeting. Venue: YWCA Auditorium, Mohammadpur, Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Iranian Cultural Centre will arrange a discussion. Venue: House-54, Road-8/A, Dhanmondi, Time: 4:00pm.

Meeting

Janat Prattasha will organise a meeting. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 10:00am.

Conference

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan will organise a conference. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

Dhakabashi will form a human chain. Venue: Hazaribagh Park, Time: 11:00am.

Dialogue

Centre for Policy Dialogue will arrange a dialogue. Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Time: 9:00am.

Walkathon

Families United Against Road Accident (FUARA) will organise a walkathon programme. Venue: In front of National Press Club, Time: 9:30am.

Meeting

Green Club of Bangladesh will arrange a meeting. Venue: 21/2, Purana Paltan, Time: 10:30am.

Conference

Trinity Communications will organise a conference. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.

Cultural festival

High Commission of India will organise a cultural festival. Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Time: 6:00pm.

Inclusion of gender issue in textbooks demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The issues of gender sensitivity and human values will have to be incorporated in the textbook curriculum so that children can learn to respect women and give them due dignity, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

Bringing changes in the curriculum is not enough, mindset of teachers who are the main component to build the nation will also have to be changed, they said and suggested keeping balance of gender in training programmes for teachers.

Stressing the role of families, the speakers said the families will have to take lead to teach their kids about gender equality from home.

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) organised the roundtable titled "We want a gender sensitive education system in establishing equality of men and women" at the National Press Club in the city.

The speakers said patriarchal approach still exists in the country

though many positive changes have been made in the education system. They suggested exclusion of discriminatory elements from textbooks, which portray women as incapable, inefficient and submissive.

"Both the male and female will have to learn human qualities to make the world alive and the textbooks will have to contain this notion," said Dr Gitiara Nasrin, professor of Mass Communication and Journalism department of Dhaka University.

"We just speak about equality but do not believe it," lamented Educationist Dr Anwara Syed Haque. "We have to believe it and start the practice from our families," she added.

Noted educationist Prof Ajoy Roy said the families will also have to teach more positive attitudes to their kids so that they can overcome any bad accident, which may occur anytime.

Dr Nasim Akhtar Hossain of Jahangirnagar University said an invisible ideology of gender inequality is on in

the society, which needs to be unlearned immediately.

She said children will have to be imparted the lesson of gender equality from the beginning so that they can bring a positive change in the society.

Prof Tahera Aktar Jahan, member (curriculum) of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), said the government has already reviewed the secondary-level curriculum and incorporated the issues of gender justice there.

"We have included life skill based education involving many practical skills in the curriculum which will be introduced in 2012," she said.

BNPS Executive Director Rokeya Kabir moderated the roundtable. Prof Syed Anwar Husain, editor of Daily Sun; Abu Sayed Khan, managing editor of Daily Samakal; Shyamol Kanti Gosh, director general of Directorate of Primary Education; Prof Salma Akhter of Dhaka University; and Prof Quazi Farque Ahmed also spoke at the event.



President Zillur Rahman speaks at the National Standard Presentation to the 9 Bengal Lancer at Bogra Cantonment yesterday. (Story on Page 5)

PHOTO: PID

Padma Bridge to be completed in time, hopes World Bank

BSS, Dhaka

The World Bank (WB), one of the major development partners in financing the Padma Multipurpose Bridge, is confident about timely completion of the bridge project.

The bank, in a statement, said yesterday that the preparation for the bridge is moving ahead in full swing and the government along with the four development partners is working closely to complete the construction in time.

The government has already finalised the design of the main bridge. The pre-

qualification (PQ) of prospective contractors is also underway, it said.

The bank, however, observes that like any other large-scale infrastructure project, the construction of the Padma Bridge will require relocation of some households and businesses and the development of the resettlement sites is progressing well.

Bangladesh Bridge Authority has undertaken extensive consultation with the local communities in the project area, particularly over entitlement policies, relocation options and livelihood development approaches.

It said the WB board would approve a credit of \$1.2 billion in next February. The bank has also assured the government of another US\$300 million for the bridge through additional financing procedure.

Approximately 6.15 km long, the bridge will have option of adding rail track when the rail track will be constructed in the region.

Connecting the south-west region with the more economically advanced eastern and central parts of the country, the bridge is expected to increase the country's GDP growth by 1.2 percent, the WB said.

Obituary

CU CORRESPONDENT

Dr Ali Ahmed, a professor of Islamic History and Culture Department of Chittagong University, passed away at a clinic in the port city early hours of yesterday due to a cardiac arrest at the age 56, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son and one daughter.

CU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Abu Yusuf condoled his death.

Death anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur



Muslim politician of South Asia.

Marking the occasion, a prayer and Qur'an recitation session will be held at 3:30pm at Moje Monjil in the town.

Well-wishers are requested to attend.

Mohon Mia was a member of the Bengal Legislative Assembly in the 1930s and 1940s and a minister in the provincial government of East Bengal as well as a parliament member in the then Pakistan national assembly.

Syeda Zakia Khatun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Sirajul Alam Khan, says a press release.

On the occasion, special prayers will be offered at the Kalabagan Bashiruddin Road Jame Masjid after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chehlum of Mirza Aziza Idris will be held today at Eastern Fortune Apartment in Eskaton Garden after the Jumma prayers.

Aziza Idris, advisory council member of Ganotantri Party died on October 17 at the BIRDEM hospital in the city. Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:22am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 31.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 14.7 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	29.4	18.8	51	57
Chittagong	29.2	19.4	73	68
Rajshahi	29.0	16.4	80	78
Rangpur	28.2	17.4	82	81
Khulna	30.5	18.4	85	79
Barisal	30.4	18.4	81	89
Sylhet	29.7	18.7	72	75