

NEWS IN *brief*

Paban's bail term extended

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday extended the bail term of Khondaker Akhter Hamid Paban, son of BNP Secretary General Khondaker Delwar Hossain, till February 10 in a cracker blast case.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after Paban's lawyers submitted a petition seeking extension of his bail term citing his illness.

The court will also hold hearing on charge framing against Paban and five others in the case the same day.

'Declare May 23 as naval safety day'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nongor, a social organisation, yesterday demanded declaring of May 23 as the naval safety day in order to raise awareness among the people about naval accidents.

The organisation also demanded the day would be observed nationally commemorating the death of hundreds of people in river accidents besides increasing awareness.

At a discussion on Dhaka University campus, Nongor further urged the government to fix the problems related to sharing of river water with India through discussion.

Woman drugged, child left at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-month old girl was left at Dhaka Medical College Hospital last evening by an unknown woman while the mother was found unconscious at Ramna Park.

Officer-in-Charge Rezaul Karim of Shahbagh Police Station said the mother, 25, resident of city's Mirpur Section-1, might have been drugged by members of 'ogyan party' on her way to Tejgaon while sharing a microbus.

The infant was returned to her mother, he said.

Faozia, Hasina women lawyers' assoc president, general secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Faozia Karim Feroz and Advocate Hasina Rashid were



elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association on January 15, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are Vice-presidents: Sima Zahur and Feroza Parvin Lucky; Joint General Secretary: Zakia Anar Koli; Treasurer: Jahan Ara Haq; and Joint Treasurer: Shahanara Begum.

Executive committee members are Selina Begum, Farida Yasmin, Fahima Nasrin, Jobaida Parvin, Hasna Begum, Jahanara Begum Shikha, and Rebeka Sultana.

Four youths arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Special Weapons and Tactics (Swat) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday arrested four youths from the city's Gulshan diplomatic zone with two revolvers, 14 bullets and a microbus from their possession.

Rahim, Kabul, Kamrul and Roman were arrested in front of American Embassy around 11:30am.

Swat Inspector Mahbus-ur-Rashid who took part in the drive said the youths, members of a gang, snatch money of those people who come out from banks in Gulshan, Badda and Baridhara areas.

They attempted to mug the customers of banks near the embassy, he said.

4 BCL men banned from DU hall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sir AF Rahman Hall of Dhaka University has barred two leaders and two activists of university unit Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) from entering the dormitory for making trouble and harassing teachers.

The BCL men will be handed over to police once they enter the hall again, Prof Azizur Rahman, provost of the dormitory, told reporters at his office yesterday.

He said the decision was taken at an emergency meeting as the BCL men vandalised the hall and behaved with teachers indecently on January 22.

The political workers who have already finished their studies but staying at the dormitory are Reza Sekhandar, vice-president, Moshir Rahman Ruble, planning secretary and activists Nasim Amman and Abdus Salam.

RAPE VICTIM SET ON FIRE Doctor declares unborn dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ultrasound of the rape victim of Comilla sadar, performed at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday, showed that her seven-month old foetus was not responding and doctors initially declared it dead.

The victim, who sustained 76 percent burns on her body, will now be treated at the gynecology department of DMCH.

A student of class eight, she was seven months into pregnancy after being raped by her 35-year-old neighbour Taleb in Comilla sadar and was set on fire by him and his accomplice Josna on Sunday in a bid to deny his paternity.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Jahangir Alam of Comilla Sadar South Police station told The Daily Star that Josna was produced before the court with a five-day remand prayer and they are yet to know how many days were granted.

The IO said teams sent to different areas are trying to arrest Taleb and locals are also extending their cooperation in this regard.

Advocate Dipti Shikder of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, dealing the case, said they want punishment of the culprits responsible for such a brutal crime.

'Impose high tax on tobacco'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said imposing high tax on all tobacco products would help protect women and children from the health hazards of passive smoking, says a press release.

The seminar was jointly organised by National Girl Child Advocacy Forum and WBB Trust at the National Press Club in the city.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holds a meeting with former prime minister of the United Kingdom Gordon Brown at House of Commons in London yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

BOYCOTT OF PARLIAMENT, CORRUPTION, HR VIOLATIONS UK should help Bangladesh solve problems

Lord Avebury tells London seminar

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH from London

The British government should stand ready to help Bangladesh in solving weighty problems, in the spirit of friendship, said Vice-chair of the All Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group of UK Lord Avebury.

Presenting a keynote paper at a seminar at the House of Lords in London on Monday, Avebury discussed various problems in Bangladesh including boycott of the parliament by the main opposition, corruption in the public service sector, human rights violation and extra judicial killings, lack of progress towards implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, and flaws in the war crimes act.

International Bangladesh Foundation organised the seminar titled "Bangladesh at Cross Roads", attended by members of the British parliament, lords, representatives of

human rights organisations, academics, and members of overseas diplomatic missions based in London.

Issues of democracy, good governance, and human rights situation in Bangladesh were discussed in the seminar.

Avebury, also the chairman of the foundation, in his speech said if BNP joined the parliament, the party would have the chance of engaging the House over its demands like withdrawal of "false cases" against its leaders.

He criticised the incumbent government for its failure to act effectively against the endemic corruption which undermines the delivery of public services, extending even into the judiciary; and lack of progress towards implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord of 1997.

Avebury, who chaired the seminar, also expressed concern over extra-judicial killings by Rapid Action Battalion and other law enforcing

agencies in Bangladesh.

Dr David Lewis of London School of Economics; Abbas Faiz, chief researcher at Amnesty International; and Brad Adams, director of the South Asia department of Human Rights Watch, highlighted the human rights situation in Bangladesh, while Dr Gowhar Rizvi, international adviser to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and Bangladesh's ruling party lawmakers Saber Hossain Choudhury and Abdul Matin Khasru represented their government.

A British MP, Jim Fitzpatrick, said Bangladesh should try war criminals, and BNP must support the process. But the trial should be in accordance with international standards, he added.

Expressing concern over the abuses by security forces, and extra-judicial killings by Rab, he criticised the government as none involved in such killings has been brought to justice yet.

'Support airport at Arial Beel'

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a roundtable at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday welcomed the decision of setting up Bangabandhu International Airport at Arial Beel.

Dhaka-based Munshiganj-Bikrampur Samity organised the discussion with its President Muniruzzaman Bhuiyan in the chair.

Awami League Health Affairs Secretary Badiuzzaman Bhuiyan Dablu, lawmakers Ashrafunnesa Mosharraf and Sanjida Khanam, Jamal Hossain, Omar Faruque and Mahub also spoke..



Sammilito Sangskritik Jote forms a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding cancellation of the sponsorship of Islami Bank to the ICC World Cup Cricket.

PHOTO: STAR

24 sub-committees to implement edn policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a total of 24 sub-committees to formulate strategies for implementation of the National Education Policy, 2010.

The 24 sub-committees were formed at the first meeting of the national education policy implementation committee.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, who heads the implementation committee, told the reporters after the committee's meeting at his ministry.

All the sub-committees, excepting the law and permanent education commission, have been asked to submit their reports with recommendations in two months. The sub-committees on law and permanent education commission were given three months.

"Besides the sub-committees, there will be a cell at the education ministry for implementation of the education policy," Nahid told reporters.

He said the sub-committee will submit their reports to the implementation committee.

"Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury and educationist Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal will monitor whether the sub-committees are working properly," he said.

He said the permanent education com-

mission will work on the country's education system, review the system and update it.

Nahid said the education policy will be implemented through formation of an education act.

"The education secretary will head the sub-committee on law to prepare a draft of the education act," he informed the reporters.

The education secretary will also head the sub-committee on permanent education commission and on formulation of textbooks in light of the education policy.

The primary and mass education secretary will head the sub-committee on making primary education compulsory up to class VIII from class V while the joint secretary (technical wing) of the education ministry the technical education sub-committee and the joint secretary (madrasa wing) of madrasa education sub-committee.

The chairman of the University Grand Commission (UGC) will head the sub-committee on university education. There will also be a sub-committee to appoint teachers and look after their salary and benefits. The additional secretary (finance) of the education ministry will look after the sub-committee.

The additional secretary (development) of the ministry will head the sub-committee on secondary education.

THREAT TO KILL JOURNO Suspended cops apologise to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has suspended three police officers of Goaland police camp in Rajbari on charge of assaulting a journalist and threatening to kill him in crossfire, ABM Altaf Hossain, a deputy attorney general, told the High Court yesterday.

Hossain placed the information during hearing a writ petition filed over the incident of assaulting the journalist.

The suspended cops -- sub inspectors Firoz and Nazrul and assistant sub inspector Kabir -- yesterday appeared before an HC bench as per its earlier order and also offered unconditional apology for it.

In response to a writ petition, the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain yesterday directed them to appear before it further on January 30, and submit their statement in black and white that day.

Following a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), the HC on January 17 directed them to appear before the court on January 26 (yesterday).

The petition sought necessary directives from the HC against the police following the newspaper report stating that the three police officers have reportedly assaulted journalist Abdullah Raihan of the daily Janakantho and threatened him at Goaland on January 16.

Advocate Manzill Murshid appeared for the petitioner while Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun stood for the cops.

Hasina arrives in London

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH from London

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in London yesterday morning on an Emirates flight at Heathrow Airport in the UK.

At the airport, she was greeted by Andrew Patrick, Asia director of British foreign ministry; and Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Dr Sayedur Rahman Khan.

UK Awami League (AL) President Shamsuddin Khan and Advisory Board Chairman Sultan Shariff were also present there to welcome Hasina, also president of AL.

In a brief meeting at the airport, Hasina expressed gratitude to British parliamentarians who helped her gain entry into Bangladesh during the caretaker government in 2007.

REMARKS ON LAWYERS SCBA stages sit-in today in front of CJ's courtroom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association will boycott the chief justice's court for one hour at 9:00am today protesting his recent remarks about lawyers and reconstitution of HC benches.

At a meeting yesterday, the SCBA, now dominated by pro-BNP lawyers, also made the decision to stage a sit-in in front of the chief justice's courtroom during the one-hour boycott.

The pro-Awami League lawyers will not be taking part in this.

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque on January 18 in a programme said lawyers are not properly doing their job of protecting good people and resisting the evil ones.

The SCBA leaders also demanded that he withdraw his January 18 statement.

Presided over by SCBA President Khondaker Mahub Hossain, the meeting at the South Hall of the Bar association was also addressed by former law minister Moudud Ahmed, former state minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury, SCBA Secretary Badruddoza Badal and its former secretary Zainul Abedin.

Meanwhile, pro-Awami League lawyers differed with the SCBA's decision.

SM Rezaul Karim, a former SCBA secretary and a pro-AL lawyer, told The Daily Star that some senior lawyers met the chief justice at his office and discussed different issues including reconstitution of HC benches.

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or drizzle is likely to occur at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Mymensingh and Tangail in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning.

Night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:41pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 31.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 08.8 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	27.2	13.9	73	55
Chittagong	30.2	14.6	64	39
Rajshahi	25.2	11.4	98	69
Rangpur	22.6	11.4	89	79
Khulna	27.5	14.0	95	64
Barisal	28.5	12.5	84	75

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Governance Advocacy Forum will hold a seminar. Time: 10:30am, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Roundtable
Poribesh Bachao Andolan (Poba) will hold a roundtable. Time: 10:30, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Public Lecture
Jatri will organise a public lecture. Time: 10:00am, Venue: Jatri conference room.

Roundtable
ASK, ADD, Blast, and Brac will jointly hold a roundtable. Time: 5:30pm, Venue: Girdap auditorium.

Conference
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) will organise a conference. Time: 4:00pm,