

## Fire injures 27 in eastern Pakistan

AFP, Lahore

A fire blazed in several buildings and injured at least 27 people yesterday in a commercial area of Pakistan's eastern cultural hub Lahore, officials said.

"The fire started early yesterday at the 10-story Bahria Centre commercial building in old Lahore city, and the flames spread to three other buildings, one mosque and two houses," rescue services chief Rizwan Naseer told AFP.

Local administration head Ahad Cheema said that at least 27 people were hurt.

"At least 27 people were wounded in the fire incident. We have asked Islamabad to send us a helicopter to extinguish the fire," Cheema said.



People admire a large snow sculpture of cartoon characters of Japanese animation and comic Sazae-san at an annual snow festival in Sapporo, Japan's northern island of Hokkaido yesterday. Some 2 million people are due to attend the week long festival which has over 250 snow sculptures.

PHOTO: AFP

## MUMBAI ATTACKS

# Verdict date set in on gunman's appeal

AFP, Mumbai

Two Indian judges will announce later this month whether the sole surviving gunman from the Mumbai attacks will have his death sentence confirmed, one of his lawyers said yesterday.

"Judgment has been posted for February 21," Farhana Shah told AFP after an administrative hearing in the appeal of Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab at the Bombay High Court.

Judges Ranjana Desai and R.V. More had been expected to give their decision yesterday on whether to back the death sentence for the Pakistani national over his part in the November 2008 attacks that killed 166 people.

They blamed the mass of paperwork in the high-profile case for the delay.

Under Indian law, death sentences have to be confirmed by the local state high court. The judges can uphold the sentence, reduce it, order a retrial or overturn the conviction, said Shah.

If the death sentence is upheld, there is a further right of appeal to the Supreme Court

in New Delhi and as a last resort to India's president.

Kasab's lawyers have asked for a retrial, arguing that his trial lawyer was not given sufficient time to wade through the 11,000-page chargesheet before the case began. They also said evidence and witnesses were manipulated.

Kasab, 23, was convicted in May last year of waging war against India, murder, attempted murder and terrorism offences after he and an accomplice opened fire on and threw grenades at commuters at Mumbai's main railway station.

A total of 52 people were killed in what was the bloodiest episode in the wave of attacks that also included three luxury hotels, a popular tourist restaurant and a Jewish centre.

India blames the banned, Pakistan-based Islamist group Lashkar-e-Taiba for masterminding the attacks, which led to the suspension of fragile peace talks between the neighbours.

## Assange faces 'denial of justice'

### Says his lawyer

AFP, London

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange would be tried behind closed doors in a "flagrant denial of justice" if extradited to Sweden over sex crime allegations, his lawyer told a British court yesterday.

The 39-year-old Australian appeared at Belmarsh Magistrates' Court in southeast London at the start of a two-day hearing.

Swedish prosecutors want to question the whistleblowing website's chief over allegations of sexual assault and rape made by two women, but Assange claims the moves are politically motivated.

His lawyer Geoffrey Robertson said in his opening arguments that a rape trial in

Sweden would violate Assange's human rights.

"He would be tried behind closed doors in a flagrant denial of justice," he told a packed courtroom at Britain's highest-security court complex.

"The Swedish custom and practice of throwing the press and public out of court when rape trials begin is one that we say is blatantly unfair, not only by British standards but also by European standards," Robinson added.

Assange's lawyers were also expected to argue that the extradition request is unacceptable because he has not been charged with any crime.

## Body exhumed for fresh

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Hena, 15, died in a hospital in Shariatpur on Jan 31, after being whipped publicly for about 50 times following a fatwa issued by some self-appointed arbitrators in her village, according to media reports and witnesses.

The girl was sentenced to 100 lashes for allegedly having an illicit relation with her married cousin Mahub, even though her family and neighbours insisted that she had actually been raped by the man.

Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain placed The Daily Star report before the bench of Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain yesterday.

Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, senior member of the bench, observed that according to the news report the already-done inquest and post-mortem reports appear false.

He termed the incident of fatwa against Hena tragic, saying such incident is unacceptable to any human being with conscience. The media reports published recently over the incident of fatwa against Hena cannot be false, he added.

The body of Hena should be exhumed for further post-mortem, the judge said. The bench said its order will help remove the curse of fatwa from the society.

Earlier in the day, the court received the copies of police inquest and the earlier post-mortem reports from Shariatpur.

The court ordered that a three-member team of doctors be formed to conduct the fresh post-mortem.

It ordered the Shariatpur civil surgeon to include in the team a gynaecologist, a forensic expert, and one of the two doctors of Suhrawardi Medical College and Hospital who were quoted as experts in The Daily Star report. It also asked the director of Suhrawardi Medical College and Hospital to send one of the experts to the hospital in Shariatpur.

The court asked the officials concerned to submit the new post-mortem report without any delay.

The bench also summoned the officer-in-charge of Naria Police Station; its Sub-inspector Aslam Uddin, who prepared the inquest report; doctors Nirmal Chandra Das, Rajesh Majumder, and Hosne Ara Begum, who prepared the first post-mortem report; Sultan Ahmed and a senior nurse of the hospital who attended Hena; and arbitrator Idris Sheikh, a local union parishad councillor who allegedly whipped Hena, to appear before the court at 10:30am on February 10.

The doctors and police have to appear with relevant files about the incident, the order said.

## IMF tags 10 conditions

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some progress in fulfilling the conditions.

One of the main conditions was that drafts of new VAT and income tax laws have to be placed in parliament by June and the government has to finalise the drafts prior to the IMF Board meeting.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has already posted the draft laws on its website to solicit public opinion.

The BB is ambivalent about lifting the upper cap on the lending rate as it fears the step would elicit negative reaction from the business community.

The businessmen have long been saying that the interest rate in Bangladesh is too high and have demanded that it be lowered, said BB officials. If the ceiling is lifted, the central bank may face criticism.

In a press briefing on January 30 when journalists asked whether the cap will

be withdrawn, Nazrul Huda, central bank deputy governor, said, "It is a major policy decision. It cannot be said at the moment."

Another major condition is to establish a monitoring framework for Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation and the Power Development Board to raise budget appropriation for covering projected loss.

A finance ministry official said the objective of the condition is to cut the loss by increasing prices of their products like power, petroleum and fertilizer.

The government has in principle agreed to increase the prices. BB's monetary policy statement released last Sunday hinted at price hike of the products, which may in turn increase the prices of other non-food products.

Apart from this, there are conditions involving the banking sector and those

have to be met between June and December.

The IMF said audit of the state-owned commercial banks (SCBs) by international auditors must be completed in the given period.

Besides, proposals for amending the bank company act should be placed in parliament by September to improve the governance of all commercial banks including SCBs. The reforms are needed to change the definition of default loan and regulate tenure, size and composition of board of directors, ensuring their independence and capabilities.

The conditions also include the recapitalization by December of the SCBs which have about Tk 1200 crore capital deficit. Another major condition is to formulate a plan to clearly delineate the approval and implementation process of the annual development programme.

## MPs worried over border

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Citing the recent cruel killing of Falani Khatun in Fulbari border area in Kurigram, a number of lawmakers of Jatiya Party, a component of AL-led ruling alliance, and BNP raised the issue in scripted and supplementary questions.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, who was not present in parliament yesterday, in a scripted reply said Bangladesh has strongly protested against the killing and India has regretted for it.

"The Indian government has started investigation into the incident and would inform us about development," the foreign minister said.

On behalf of the foreign minister, State Minister for Environment Hasan Mahmud replied lawmakers' supplementary queries on the issue. He said Indian government has already taken action regarding investigation into Falani killing.

A number of BNP lawmakers, although they have been boycotting the House, raised a volley of questions for the home minister about her ministry's measures to prevent "downslide" into law and order.

In their scripted questions, the opposition lawmakers said the law and order is

deteriorating fast.

Two ruling AL lawmakers in their scripted queries also sought to know about the measures to improve law and order.

Even ruling AL lawmaker Mustaque Ahmed Ruhi of Netrokona-1 in a scripted question said four people in his constituency were missing. But no one is speaking anything about the incident out of fear, he said.

Mustaque sought to know what legal measure he can take or what the home ministry can do about the matter.

In response, the home minister said the lawmaker can take legal step on any specific issue and her ministry will help as much as possible.

On law and order, Sahara said the situation is under control. The law-enforcement agencies are carrying out special drives against criminals along with their routine work, she said.

She added her ministry has recommended increasing jail sentence for faulty drivers up to 10 years from five years in a bid to reduce road accidents.

The home minister said the government will update the list of godfathers involved in smuggling.

## Constitution-less

FROM PAGE 1

suffer from the absence of a constitution. This was in direct contrast to what was happening in India, the mother country from which it had been prised out as a homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent. India would by 1950 have its own constitution and hold its first general elections in 1951. Pakistan, on the other hand, was stymied by a lack of progress on the constitutional question. It was not until March 12, 1949 that a Constitutional Basic Principles Committee was formed at a session of the constituent assembly. The committee would submit its interim report to the constituent assembly on September 28, 1950.

The BPC report went into great detail regarding the structure of the executive and legislative branches of government in Pakistan. But it was what it stated about the future state language of Pakistan which immediately raised hackles among the Bangalees of the country's eastern province. The BPC report stated emphatically that the state language of Pakistan would be Urdu. It was thus a going back to square one where Bangalees were concerned. Everyone seemed to agree that Bangla could be the official language of East Bengal but where its

placing at the national level was concerned, that was an entirely different matter altogether.

Besides, insidious moves were already underway to have the Bangla language refashioned through writing it in the Arabic script. At a meeting of the Educational Advisory Board of Pakistan on February 7, 1949, Education Minister Fazlur Rahman repeated his earlier suggestion of Arabic being the new vehicle for Bangla! Efforts were made to gain Dr Shahidullah's support for the proposal. In the event, the Bangalee scholar refused to be associated in any way with the move. Thus, in March 1949, students of Dhaka University as well as leading exponents of Bangla began registering their protest at the suggestion of Arabic being foisted on the language spoken by the people of East Bengal. On March 9, 1949, the East Bengal authorities constituted a Language Committee whose basic responsibilities would be a simplification, standardisation and translation of certain technical terms in Bangla language. Sensing public hostility to the matter of Arabic, though, the committee stayed away from dealing with the issue of writing Bangla.

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**ঢাকা ইলেকট্রিক সাপ্লাই কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (ডেসকো)**  
বাড়ী নং- ৩, রোড নং- ২৪, ব্লক- কে, বনানী, ঢাকা।

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ঢাকা ইলেকট্রিক সাপ্লাই কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (ডেসকো) এর গুরুত্বপূর্ণ স্থানাসমূহের নিরাপত্তার দায়িত্ব পালনের জন্য নিম্ন বর্ণিত পদে লোক নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত সামরিক/আধা-সামরিক/আইন শৃঙ্খলা বাহিনী এর কেবল মাত্র নিয়মিত পদ থেকে অবসরপ্রাপ্ত নিম্ন বর্ণিত পদের পার্শ্বে উল্লিখিত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	যোগ্যতা	দায়িত্ব
০১।	স্পেশাল গার্ড	সামরিক/আধা-সামরিক/আইন শৃঙ্খলা বাহিনী এর কেবল মাত্র নিয়মিত পদ থেকে অবসরপ্রাপ্ত কনস্টেবল/সিপাহী অথবা সম-মর্যাদা সম্পন্ন। বয়স: সর্বোচ্চ ৪০ বছর।	স্থাননা ভিত্তিক শিক্ষাটিং ডিউটিতে নিয়োজিত থাকবেন।

**শর্তাবলী:**

ক) জন সূত্রে বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে।  
খ) সঠিক দেহ ও সুস্থাবস্থার অধিকারী হতে হবে।  
গ) উচ্চতা ন্যূনতম ৫ ফুট ৪ ইঞ্চি হতে হবে।  
ঘ) যোগ্য ও অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স ৫ (পাঁচ) বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।  
ঙ) প্রার্থী বিভাগীয় বা বাংলাদেশের যে কোন আদালতে সাজাপ্রাপ্ত হতে পারবেন না।  
চ) বয়স নির্ণয়ের জন্য জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে।  
ছ) সদ্য তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি দাখিল করতে হবে।  
জ) ডেসকোর নিজস্ব সেলারী প্যাটার্নে চুক্তি ভিত্তিক নিয়োগ করা হবে।

বর্ণিত পদে আবেদন করতে ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীদেরকে নিজের নাম, পিতা ও মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, বর্তমান ঠিকানা, জন তারিখ, উচ্চতা, জাতীয়তা, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা উল্লেখ পূর্বক সাদা কাগজে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদন পত্রের সাথে শর্তাবলীতে উল্লিখিত বিষয়ের স্বাক্ষরে প্রযোজ্য কাগজপত্র সংযুক্ত করে নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে পৌছাতে হবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার ডেসকো কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সংরক্ষিত। যে কোন ধরনের তদবির প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা বলে গণ্য করা হবে। কেবল মাত্র বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীদের দৈহিক, মানসিক এবং মৌখিক যোগাযোগের যোগ্যতা যাচাই করা হবে। আবেদন পত্র জমা প্রদানের শেষ তারিখ ২৮/০২/২০১১ইং।

তারিখ: ফেব্রুয়ারী ০৭, ২০১১ইং  
স্মারক নং- ডেসকো/প্রশাসন-২২(এ)/২০১১/৫৪৮

**নূর মহম্মদ**  
উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন)

**PUBALI BANK LIMITED**  
ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION  
(ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT)  
HEAD OFFICE, DHAKA.

**INVITATION FOR TENDERS**

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the eligible Tenderers as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned works as per terms & conditions stated below.

1. Procuring Entity	: Pubali Bank Limited, Establishment Division (Engineering Department), Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
2. Tender Name	: Decoration work of proposed premises of our R.K.Mission Road Branch, Dhaka.
3. Time for completion of the work	: 20 (Twenty) Calendar days.
4. Eligibility of Tenderers	: i) Minimum work experience of 3(Three) years in building decoration/renovation. ii) The tenderer must have experience during 3 (Three) years in completion of work(s) in same nature costing minimum Tk.10.00 (Ten) Lac. iii) Having valid trade license, up to date Income Tax clearance certificate and VAT registration certificate. iv) Must be financially solvent.
5. Price of Tender Document	: Tk.800.00 (Tk. Eight hundred) only non-refundable.
6. Amount of Tender Security	: 2.5% of total bid amount in the form of Payment Order favouring Pubali Bank Limited, Head office, Dhaka-1000.
7. Name and address of the office from where tender documents will be obtained & to be dropped.	: Pubali Bank Limited, Establishment Division (12th floor), 26, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
8. Last date & time for selling tender document.	: Up to 6.00 PM (BST) on 20.02.2011
9. Last date & time for tender submission	: Up to 11.00 AM (BST) on 22.02.2011
10. Date and time for tender opening	: At 11.15 AM (BST) on 23.02.2011 in presence of bidder (if any).
11. Special Instructions	: Tender document to be submitted in sealed envelope. Pubali Bank Limited reserves the right to accept partly or fully any quotation or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever and is not bound to accept the lowest quotation.

**Sk. Golam Mohammad**  
General Manager