

NEWS IN

brief

\$63m Japanese support

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Japan will provide 63 million US dollar (5.04 billion yen) for improvement of maternal, neonatal and child health programme in Bangladesh.

To this effect, an exchange of notes was signed yesterday by Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Shiro Sadoshima and Senior Secretary at the Economic Relations Division Iqbal Mahmood.

The loan agreement of the project was also signed between the senior secretary and Chief Representative of JICA Bangladesh Office Dr Takao Toda.

A Japanese ODA loan will be utilized for the “Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Improvement Project-Phase I under the Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Programme (HPNSDP)”, said a press release of the embassy of Japan.

'Have Bapex excavate gas fields'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a human chain yesterday demanded that the government appoint Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Ltd (Bapex) instead of Russian company Gazprom for excavating the country's gas fields.

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) organised the human chain at Picture Palace More of Khulna city where the speakers also demanded cancellation of the agreement with American company ConocoPhillips for excavation of the seashore's gas fields, as the agreement is 80 per cent export oriented.

The speakers said although the foreign companies were responsible for the explosions at Tengratila and Magurchara gas fields, they did not pay a single penny as compensation.

Advocate Firoj Ahmed, coordinator of Khulna division branch of Bapa chaired the programme while Prof Mohammad Majaharul Hannan, and journalist Sohrab Hossen also spoke.

Call to amend labour law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty seven garment workers' organisations yesterday demanded that the government place the proposed amendment to the labour law bill in the current Jatiya Sangsad session and pass it.

In a written statement the leaders of the organisations said it was the pre and post polls pledge of the incumbent government to make the labour law 2006 the protector for the labourers by amending the conflicting articles of this law.

To bring an amendment to this law, although a trio- proposal, made by the labourers, owners and the government, had been placed to the labour ministry, it was not yet placed and passed in the Jatiya Sangsad, they said.

150 JnU students sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Jagannath University (JnU) filed a case against at least 150 students on Tuesday night in connection with Tuesday's violent clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on the campus.

Proctor Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed filed the case with Kotwali Police Station, said Sub-inspector Mokbl Hossain.

Police is trying to identify the accused through video footages and photographs published in different media, the SI added.

Meanwhile, BCL central committee expelled 17 leaders and activists from the organisation for their involvement in the clash.

At least six activists were injured the clash between two factions of BCL on JnU campus, which halted vehicular movement on adjacent North-South Road for more than one hour on Tuesday.



Nirapad Development Foundation forms a human chain before Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding steps to run hourly train services on Dhaka-Mymensingh route.

PHOTO: STAR

'Sayedee escaped, concealed in a burka'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal that Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee, veiled in a "burka", had escaped on a bull cart from a group of pursuing freedom fighters in Jessore.

Julfikar Ali, the 16th prosecution witness, was testifying under cross-examination yesterday in the case charging Sayedee with crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

Julfikar said he took part in the war under Sector 8 Commander Major Manzur. Soon after the Liberation War, he and a group of freedom fighters went to Jessore's Bagharpara in search of collaborators, he said.

There they came to know that a person was hiding in the house of one Rowshan Ali, he said, adding that afterwards he even "saw the person with Rowshan in Bagharpara Bazar."

When "Commander Solaiman

Shaheb" gave the order, "we surrounded Rowshan Ali's house but failed to find Sayedee there.

"When we asked for the person's identity, Rowshan said the man was Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

"Later we searched for him (Sayedee) and came to know that he had fled on a bull cart wearing a burka towards Talbaria," said Julfikar.

Afterwards, they came to know that Sayedee had come to Rowshan's house from Pirojpur and was involved in rape, looting, arson and torture during the Liberation War, he said.

"I saw him (Sayedee) in 2005 or 2006 addressing a programme in Bagharpara. At the meeting he said, 'I would not have survived without Rowshan bhai's help'. He then called Rowshan to the podium," said Julfikar.

When Julfikar finished his deposition, identifying Sayedee in the dock, defence counsel Mizanul Islam started his cross-examination.

Replying to a question, Jufikar said he had been involved with Awami League politics even before the Liberation War and was currently the general secretary of Bagharpara Upazila Awami League.

Counsel Kafil Uddin Chowdhury, replacing Mizanul, asked Julfikar whether he had heard of a book, "Muktijuddhe Jesseore", written by Rokonuddoula, the Jessore correspondent of Daily Sangbad.

Julfikar said he had not.

"Do you know that Rokonuddoula mentions your name as a collaborator in this book?" asked Kafiluddin.

Julfikar said he knew of no such thing and it was not true.

With the tribunal's permission Julfikar said, "I was caught by Razakars (collaborators) after a weeklong battle and they peeled off my skin. One cannot be a Razakar if someone just says so in his book."

He added that he had been getting freedom fighters' allowance for many days.

Kafiluddin suggested that Julfikar had given the "false deposition" to gain favours from the government as he had no job. Julfikar denied the charge.

Earlier on the day, defence counsels finished the cross-examination of the 15th prosecution witness, Solaiman Hossain.

When the defence counsels said Solaiman had gone to jail twice on corruption charges, Solaiman replied that it was actually four times and for his involvement in Awami League politics.

When the defence asked for the charges to be specified, the tribunal stopped them, saying that they could ask the questions during the argument.

The tribunal led by Justice Md Nizmaul Huq is scheduled to record the deposition of the 17th witness today.

Sayedee, nayeb-e-ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, is among six Jamaat and two BNP leaders currently facing war crimes charges at the tribunal.

CPB nat'l rally Jan 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will hold a national rally tomorrow (Friday) in the city in order to mount a mass movement against the crises facing the country.

At the rally, the party leaders will give speeches in demand of the trial of the war criminals and in protest of communalism, corruption, secrete killing and other forms of public suffering.

They will also talk on the current political landscape and prospective ways out.

In a press release, the party calls on the people to break out of the dichotomous politics of Bangladesh and constitute an alternative leftist force for solving the existing crises.

CPB activists and supporters from across the country will attend the programme, which will begin in front of the Matsya Bhaban at 2:00pm.

Woman's remaining body parts found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday evening recovered three remaining pieces of a woman's body from a local canal in Keraniganj after only the severed head was found there on January 7.

The victim, Shamima Akhter, 32, employed in a garment factory, was murdered and cut up into four pieces by her husband, Mukul Hossain, 40, said police.

Mukul was arrested by police on January 22 after he gave inconsistent statements while filing a GD over Shamima's disappearance. During remand he revealed that he had murdered Shamima after a quarrel over his extramarital affair, said police.

Mukul yesterday showed police the spot on the canal where he had dumped a sack containing the body parts.



Leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Swetchchhasabok Dal who were in prisons meet BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

Ctg ghat workers call off strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattagram Ghat and Gudam Sramik Sangram Parishad yesterday postponed their indefinite work abstention programme after getting assurance of a 20 percent increase in the wage of workers carrying bags to and fro the vessel and the store house from February 1.

The Parishad took the decision after a meeting with Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) President MA Latif MP at CCCI in the port city.

The Parishad Convenor Mohammad Alamgir said the lighter vessels and store house owners assured at the meeting to increase the wage for carrying each size of bag by 20 percent from February 1.

For instance, according to the new wage chart, each worker will get Tk 9 for carrying a 90 kg bag, which was earlier Tk 7.50, he added.

He, however, said the work abstention programme would be continued in case the wage is not increased as promised from February 1.

Mentionable, the Parishad started their indefinite work abstention programme on Tuesday at 16 ghats of the Karnaphuli river to press home their nine-point demand including increasing the wage of workers.

BDR CARNAGE TRIAL Heated debate over video footage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Defence and prosecution lawyers yesterday were locked in a heated debate over presenting a video footage at Metropolitan Session Judge's Court, Dhaka which is conducting the trial of the February 25-26, 2009 carnage in BDR's Pilkhana headquarters.

The video shows two of the accused, deputy assistant director (DAD) of the then Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Towhidul Islam and signalman Salaududdin, going to the prime minister's office to present their demands.

Prosecutor Mosharraf Hossain Kajol said they wanted to play the video as a witness, Nayek Tarun Kanti Roy, who gave his deposition and was cross-examined yesterday, identified the two from the video.

Tarun also identified Salaududdin in a photograph taken during the mutiny, he added.

The debate ensued when Kajol, with the court's permission, asked the court staff to set up a temporary screen to play the video from a projector.

The visibly agitated defense lawyers told the court that they did not get a copy of the video. "We will not see it," said defense counsel Aminul Islam.

Replying to the court's query, Kajol said there is no provision for copying evidence.

Aminul then stood up. Quoting section 9 of

the evidence act, he said, "He (Tarun) is not a seizure list witness (a person who documented the evidence during the incident). He cannot produce the video since he did not capture it."

Kajol replied that they will produce the person who recorded the video later at the court.

Meanwhile the video kept playing on the screen while the arguments continued. The court, in the recording of the court proceedings, counted it as "the video and photograph of DAD Touhid and Salaududdin".

In his deposition, Tarun said he saw three of the accused, nayek subedar Fazlul Karim, havildar Anisuzzaman and signalman Matuir Rahman, carrying Major Gazzali's body in a hessian over the road before Signal Sector around 11:30am on February 25, 2009.

Defense lawyer Faruk Ahammad, during the cross-examination, asked Tarun whether he knew that Major Gazzali's body was identified 10 months after the mutiny.

"I did not know that," replied Tarun. "You did not see them carrying the body," accused Faruk. That is not true, answered Tarun.

The court, set up temporarily at the Alia Madrasa playground of the capital's Bakshibazar, was adjourned till January 30.

Fifty seven top and mid-ranking army officers of the erstwhile BDR, now Border Guard Bangladesh, and 17 others were brutally killed in the carnage.

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নাকি জুম আপ্তা কিনবেন?

১২৯০ টাকা দিয়ে জুম আপ্তা কিনলে

উসুল হবে
পুরো ১২৯০ টাকাই

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THE FASTEST MOBILE BROADBAND IN BANGLADESH

WEATHER
TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

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, Met Office said.

Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Tangail, Faridpur, Madaripur, Sandwip, Rangamati, Feni, Srirongal, Jessore, Kustia and Barisal and it may continue.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:40pm today and rises at 6:41am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 27.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 07.1 degrees Celsius at Srirongal.

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	24.3	11.0	62	49
Chittagong	24.5	12.2	67	49
Rajshahi	25.0	08.3	95	64
Rangpur	22.8	09.5	91	77
Khulna	25.7	11.8	98	61
Barisal	25.7	09.6	91	71
Sylhet	24.4	11.4	89	66
Cox's Bazar	27.0	13.2	52	58