

NEWS IN *brief*

Japan-funded training centre built

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A vocational training centre was established in Narayanganj with the financial assistance from Japan for poor women and vulnerable youths. This vocational training centre will develop skills of poor and vulnerable people for getting them involved in job market. The centre was formally inaugurated by Counsellor of Embassy of Japan in Dhaka Masayuki Taga on Monday, said a press release. Local NGO DBKP constructed the centre with the Japanese fund.

BCL dissolves six committees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), a pro-Awami League student organisation, yesterday dissolved the branch committees of Dhaka College and Gopalganj, Kishoreganj, Sariatpur, Madaripur and Kustia districts. In a statement, signed by the organisation's president HM Badiuzzaman Sohag and general secretary Siddique Nazmul Alam, also said central leaders have been assigned to form the branch committees of Gazipur, Comilla, Rangpur, Satkhira, Pirojpur, Narayanganj city, Comilla University and Begum Rokeya University.

More arrest orders against Unipay2u officials

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against the chairman and nine officials of Unipay2u Bangladesh for misappropriating Tk 46.34 lakh from an investor of the company.

Metropolitan Magistrate Keshab Roy Chowdhury passed the order after Jahanara Masud, a resident of Dhaka, filed the case against the top officials of the multi-level marketing (MLM) company.

The accused are Chairman Shahiduzzaman alias Shahin, Vice Chairman Masudur Rahaman Masud, General Manager Jamshedul Alam, Managing Director Muntasir Hossain Emon, Director (Finance) MA Taher, Director (Admin) MA Mukim, Director (Marketing) Shakhawat Hossain, Director Monjur Ahsan Mintu, Director Khandakar Muhiht Al Mahmud and Chief Agent Minhazur Rahaman.

The court also directed the officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station to submit reports on the execution of the arrest warrants within July 19.

In her complaint, Jahanara said on October 17, 2010 she agreed to invest in the company under the condition that the company would pay a large interest if she deposits instalments of Tk2, 12, 100.

Allured by the business opportunity, Jahanara, her husband, and three daughters invested a total of Tk 46, 34,385 in instalments from 2010 to February 2012, she said.

After completing the payments, Jahanara visited the company office at the capital's Motaleb Plaza on March 18 and did not find anybody there.

Later, she filed the case as she could not find any trace of the company and its officials.

On May 6, the managing director and the general manager of the company were remanded in custody hours after their arrest on charges of swindling people.

Meanwhile a Chittagong court also issued arrest warrants against the MLM Company's 40 officials including its Chairman Sahiduzzaman Sahin, and Managing Director (MD) Muntasir Hossain yesterday on charge of misappropriating money, reports our Chittagong correspondent.

The Court of Metropolitan Magistrate Mahbubur Rahman passed the orders as six plaintiffs lodged six cases with the court accusing the officials. The court ordered Panchlaish Police Station to arrest the accused within July 24.

The court sources said, the plaintiffs complained that the accused officials embezzled around Tk 25.47 crore from them giving them assurance to pay double money within ten months.

The government suspended operations of the MLM firm in January last year after hundreds of investors took to the streets in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country demanding their money back.

In the same month, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed a case accusing the company officials of making money



Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, centre, takes part in a roundtable on prevention of deaths from road accidents at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Order on Mojaheed indictment June 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 will decide on June 21 whether it will indict Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed for his alleged involvement in the crimes against humanity committed during the country's Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam set the date yesterday after both the prosecution and defence counsels completed their arguments on two petitions of the prosecution.

Of the two petitions, one was for bringing an additional charge against the detained Jamaat secretary general and the other for an

additional witness in the case against Mojaheed, which was filed May 29.

The tribunal will pass an order regarding the petitions on the same day--June 21.

At present Mojaheed is facing 32 charges, which include his alleged involvement in the killings of freedom fighters and intellectuals.

Both the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments over the charge framing hearing against the former minister of a BNP-led government on May 30.

Arguing over prosecution's petition for inclusion of additional charge, Abdur Razzaq, chief of the defence counsels of detained Jamaat leaders, yesterday said the inclusion of a charge meant the

"amendment of formal charges" submitted by the prosecution.

"There is no provision neither in the act [International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973] nor in the rules of procedure of the tribunal, which allows amendment of formal charges", he said.

International Crimes Tribunal has been operating as per the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973.

Replying to the defence's argument, Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta said the tribunal might allow the petition applying its "inherent power" for the "sake of justice."

The prosecution earlier said that following further investigation, the investigation officer found Mojaheed's involvement in an

incident of "genocide" in Faridpur during the war, and filed the petition for inclusion of the additional charge along with seven witnesses to support the charge.

On the other petition seeking additional witness, defence counsel Razzaq said as per the act, the prosecution could bring additional witness only after the commencement of trial.

"But we are now at the stage of charge framing hearing. Trial will start only after framing of charges", he said, appealing that the petition be rejected, as the trial was yet to begin.

The prosecution, however, argued that the trial already started with the submission of formal charges against the accused on January 16.

Mojaheed was produced in court

GHULAM AZAM

Counsels allowed to meet him in hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday allowed the defence counsels to meet war crimes accused Ghulam Azam at the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

Tribunal-1 Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq fixed the duration of the meeting for three hours from 9:30 am on June 8 so that the defence could discuss the case with the former Jamaat chief and take preparation for the trial proceedings.

The tribunal also ordered the defence counsels not to make any press statement after communicating with Ghulam Azam at the

prison cell.

On May 13, Ghulam Azam, considered by many as the symbol of war crimes during the Liberation War of Bangladesh, was indicted on five charges of crimes against humanity.

Yesterday, Justice Nizamul Huq asked three names for the 'privilege communication' from defence counsels. The defence panel gave three names-- Abdur Razzaq, Imran Siddique and Shishir Manir.

"Two among the three are allowed to meet Ghulam Azam," said Nizamul Huq.

He also ordered the authorities concerned to look after the defence counsels during their visit at the prison cell, and not to inter-

fere in their discussion with the accused.

Ghulam Azam was present in the court while Justice Nizamul Huq passed the order.

The tribunal partly granted another plea of the defence counsel regarding adjournment of the trial proceedings as they were not prepared for hearing since petitions on transferring Ghulam Azam case and review of charges were yet to be attended.

Defence counsel Tajul Islam requested the tribunal to defer the hearing of opening statement until the matters are resolved.

In its observation the tribunal said there was no need to defer the hearing of opening statement as it

will remain same even if the case is transferred or charges are reviewed.

Nizamul Huq then partially allowed the prayer on the ground of requirement of time for preparation while rejecting two other reasons.

The tribunal then asked the defence counsel to submit their points regarding the transfer of the case from ICT-1 to ICT-2.

Chief of defence counsels Abdur Razzaq then submitted a newspaper report published on April 11, 1992.

According to the report, some lawyers in a rally demanded the then government to execute a verdict for hanging Ghulam Azam. The verdict was passed by a people's court on March 26, 1992.

Rare transit of Venus today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Venus, the second planet from the Sun, will pass directly between the Sun and Earth today, becoming visible against the solar disk. After the telescope's invention, this will be the eighth transit of Venus. Next such event will take place in the year 2117.

Anushanditsu Chokro, a science organisation, will organise an observation camp at the playground of Motijheel Government Boys' High School to enable interested people to witness the rare transit of Venus from 7:00am till 11:00am, said a press release.

People would be able to witness the celestial event after sunrise, it added. The small disc of Venus will touch the Sun's disc internally at 10:33 am. It will completely come out of the solar disc by 10:50 am. Shahjahan Mridha, president of astronomy department of Anushanditsu Chokro, cautioned people not to view the transition with a naked eye or sunglasses, negative, positive or x-ray films to avert severe health hazard.

It is not safe to view the transition through binoculars or telescopes without a filter, he said. Welding glass of 13, 14, and 15 grade or safe solar filters can be used to see the event, Shahjahan added.

The Anushanditsu Chokro will also set up camps at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Thakurgaon Jela School playground and Parosh Shagar playground in Barisal.

Domestic help killed allegedly by employer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help was killed allegedly by her employer at Taltala of Dakkhinkhan in the capital yesterday.

The victim is Parmin Aktar, 8, daughter of Shahabuddin, a day labourer.

Police arrested four people, including the employer couple--Sabrina Jahan Rakhi, 25, and Rashedul Islam, 30, in connection with the killing.

Other arrestees are Mohammad Abdullah Hel Baki, 60, Rakhi's father-in-law, and Badsha, 30, a caretaker of the house.

Shahabuddin of the same area said her daughter Parmin had been working in fourth floor of the six-story building for about four months.

"When I was going to a mosque early in the morning for saying prayers I found Parmin's body in front of her employer house," he added.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. Morgue sources said Parmin's head was thrashed.

Inspector of Dakkhinkhan police Kaikobad Kazi said the employer couple told the police that they do not know anything about the death.

"They said us that they and the housemaid were sleeping in separate rooms after taking dinner at 11:00pm and were informed about the death early in the morning when locals gathered in front of their house," he added.

The couple also informed the police that Parmin did not want to work in the house from the beginning.

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WEATHER TODAY

Heat wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barisal and Khulna divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi and Pabna and it may continue, Met Office said.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:44pm and rises tomorrow at 5:10am.

Country's highest temperature 38.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chaudanga and lowest 22.4 degrees at Sandwip.

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	31.2	24.0	80	67
Chittagong	28.8	22.8	95	80
Rajshahi	38.0	27.4	76	99
Rangpur	30.0	25.4	81	77
Khulna	36.0	29.6	82	84
Barisal	32.0	26.4	86	83
Sylhet	30.7	22.9	76	74