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Maj Zia wanted SQ Chy dead

2 freedom fighters tell int'l crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

During the Liberation War, Maj Ziaur Rahman commissioned the killing of 22 "collaborators", including Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and his father, said two freedom fighters at International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

Maj Zia also designated a team to execute the killings, the two said.

Freedom fighters SM Mahub-Ul-Alam and Qazi Mohammad Nurul Absar revealed this information before the tribunal while testifying against Salahuddin in the case filed in connection with his crimes against humanity.



Salahuddin was in the dock during their depositions.

The witnesses told the tribunal that they conducted an operation together to kill Salahuddin as he had been "killing and torturing people" with the help of the Pakistan army and its collaborators, the Al-Badr, Al-Shams and Razakars.

Alam, 63 and Absar, 61, said they along with two other freedom fighters launched an attack on Salahuddin in September 1971, in Chittagong while Salahuddin was coming out of a house in his car.

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Plane lost windshield in mid-air

Co-pilot injured; passengers survived a scare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An aircraft of United Airways (BD) Ltd on domestic flight has narrowly escaped a crash, which almost happened when a part of its windshield blew away in mid-air, at an altitude of 9,000 feet.

The incident left the co-pilot seriously injured. He sustained cuts and bruises on the face, arms, neck and eyelids.

The 66-seater ATR 72-200 had taken off from

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PHOTO: COURTESY

The cockpit and the frame that lost the windshield in mid-air. Luckily, the pilot managed to land the plane safely.

Judge Zaheer quits war tribunal-1

Justice Jahangir may replace him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Member of the International Crimes Tribunal-1 Judge AKM Zaheer Ahmed yesterday resigned on the grounds of illness.

His replacement is likely to be Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim of the High Court.

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3 shot dead in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Unidentified assailants shot dead three people including a union parishad chairman at Shelaiddah in Kumarkhali upazila yesterday.

The dead were identified as Nurul Islam, 48, chairman of Ambaria Union Parishad in Khoksa upazila and his two assistants Ansar Ali, 43, and Bhutto, 25, of Domdom in Kushtia.

The shooting took place on a motorboat on the Padma river when the victims were on their way back from Pabna around 2:35pm.

The boatman Abu Hanif started the motorboat from

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Runi's family not helping investigators

Claims Rab probing journo couple murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion personnel yesterday claimed that family of the murdered journalist Meherun Runi was not "cooperating enough" with the elite force's investigation team.

Rab Director General Mukhlesur Rahman made

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Bapex finds new gas layer in Salda field

130 mmcfd gas to be added this year

SHARIER KHAN

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company (Bapex) hit a new gas reservoir in the 16-year-old small Salda gas field in Brahmanbaria yesterday.

Bapex chief Mortuza Ahmad Faruque has said that while drilling a work-over well into the field's existing well number-1, they have hit the new gas zone 200 metres below the original depth of the

well, which is 2,515 metres.

"But we will continue drilling this well up to another 200 metres. Then we can assess the new gas sands that we have found. We can primarily say this is a good prospect," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

There are three wells in this field. The first two wells have become exhausted while the third one is producing up to 20 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcfd).

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Arctic sea ice reaches record low

AFP, Washington

The sea ice in the Arctic Ocean has melted to its smallest point ever in a milestone that may show that worst-case forecasts on climate change are coming true, US scientists said on Monday.

The extent of ice observed on Sunday broke a record set in 2007 and will likely melt further with several weeks of summer still to come, according to data from the National Snow and Ice Data Center and the NASA space agency.

The government-backed ice center, based at the University of Colorado at Boulder, said in a statement that the decline in summer Arctic sea ice "is considered a strong signal of long-term climate warming."

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Koko innocent, Joy corrupt

Khaleda claims she has documents of graft by PM's son

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Defending her son Arafat Rahman Koko as innocent, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia claims she has documents of corruption allegedly committed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajib Wazed Joy.

At a meeting of BNP standing committee Sunday night, Khaleda expressed her dissatisfaction with the party colleagues as she thinks they are reluctant to speak about Joy's alleged corruption.

Meeting sources say according to the chairperson's decision, all the "corruption documents related to Joy" will be translated into Bangla and published in leaflets for distribution across the country.

"The government has falsely implicated Koko in corruption cases and now they are smearing him. Koko's name was not found in any documents, while I have the documents of corruption done by the prime minister's son," the sources quoted Khaleda as saying.

At one stage of the meeting Khaleda asked her staff to bring some papers from her office room. Later she showed the standing committee members a file saying it's a document of Joy's "corruption".

However, nobody opened the file and the BNP chief

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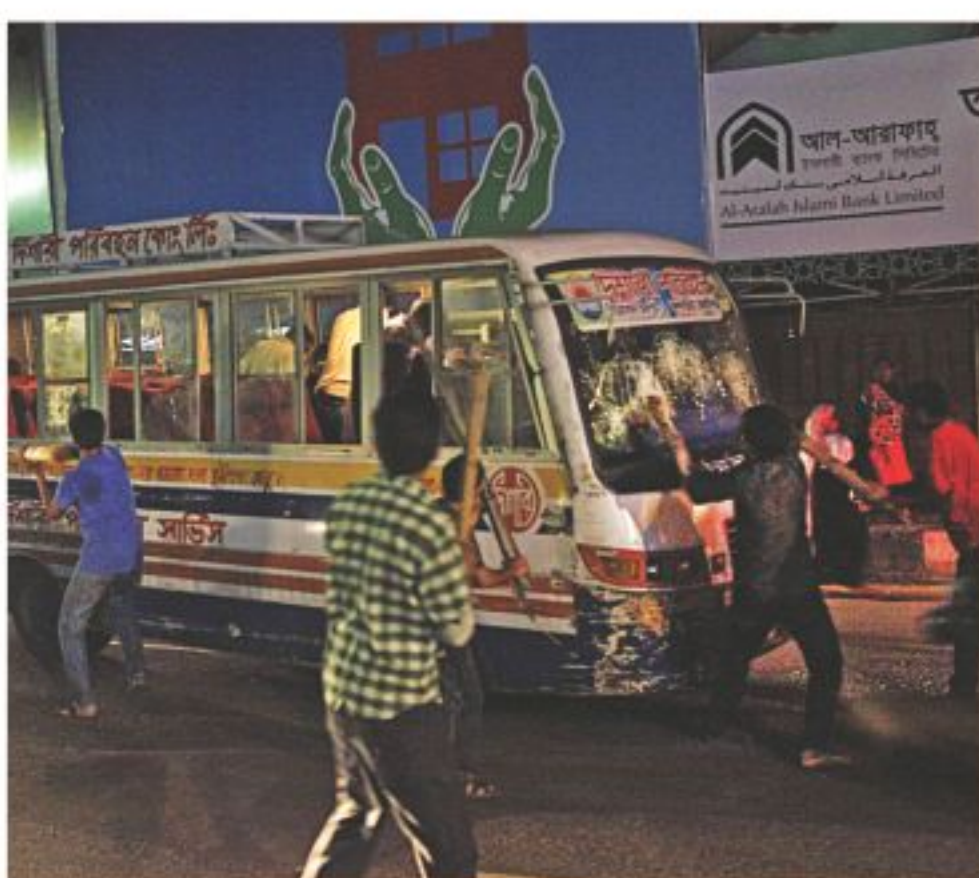


PHOTO: STAR

Shards litter a street near Shahbagh intersection in the capital last night after a mob went on the rampage in the area following the death of a Dhaka University student under the wheels of a bus. The mob torched a police box, top right, and vandalises a bus. The violence spread fast to almost all the roads on and around the campus, resulting in long tailbacks. Traffic stood still on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, the city's main thoroughfare, even at 1:00am today. People heading home after work got stuck in jams or waited hours at bus stops for transport.

TIPAIMUKH DAM

Dhaka, Delhi finalise joint study terms

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India yesterday handed over a copy of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Tipaimukh Hydropower Project to Bangladesh as the two countries finalised the Terms of Reference for a joint study on the dam's impact.

At the end of a two-day meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh joint subgroup on the proposed dam project, India handed over

the five-volume DPR to Bangladesh to enable it carry out an impact study on the hydroelectric dam to be built on the Barak river in northeastern Indian state of Manipur.

The meeting, after detailed discussions, finalised the ToR with a view to facilitating the conduct of the joint study. However, no timeline has been finalised to complete the study.

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18-party to stage demo next month

Countrywide mass rallies announced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 18-party alliance will stage countrywide demonstrations for five days next month as well as engage in mass contact to drum up public support for the restoration of the caretaker government system.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL

Do you think the prime minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Mashur Rahman should resign voluntarily to make way for the World Bank's loan revival chance for the Padma bridge project?

Yes (86%)
No (9%)
No Comments (5%)

TOTAL VOTES: 258

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think there will be a repetition of political confrontation over the caretaker government system before the next parliamentary election as speculated by the Economist Intelligence Unit?

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