

NEWS IN *brief***Sylhet BNP leaders get bail in cop assault case**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

The High Court yesterday granted Sylhet district BNP leaders eight weeks' bail in connection with a case filed for vandalism and assault on police on January 11.

The High Court bench comprising Justice Siddiqur Rahman Miah and Justice Badruzzaman gave the order.

The leaders are Dildor Hossain Selim, Abul Kaher Shamim, Ali Ahmed, Mahbubur Rab Chowdhury Faisal, Farhad Chowdhury Shamim, Dinar Khan Hashu, Abul Kalam and Emdad Hossain Chowdhury.

On January 11, BNP and police clashed after the opposition activists brought out a pro-hartal procession in Sylhet city.

Hemanga Biswas' 100th birthday celebration starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-day programme to celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of the late folk musician, lyricist and singer Hemanga Biswas begins at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital today.

Hemanga Biswas Jonmoshotoborsho Udjapon Porshod organised the programme. Educationist Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury will inaugurate the event at 3:00pm, followed by a music event featuring Hemanga's songs.

On Saturday, a seminar will be organised at RC Majumdar Auditorium of Dhaka University. Two musical events on the songs will be held in the capital's Rabindra Sarobar at 3:00pm on Saturday and Sunday.

On Monday, an event of "lathi khela" and Hemanga's music will be organised at his village

Body of unidentified man foundSTAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

The body of an unidentified man, around 27, was found in Lohagara in Chittagong yesterday morning.

Mohammad Shahjahan, officer-in-charge of Lohagara Police Station, said after being informed by the locals, they recovered the body from a jungle in Maijbila village. The man might have been killed with sharp weapons on Wednesday night as they found several injury marks in the head and other parts of the body, he added.

A murder case was filed with the police station in this regard.



An armoured personnel carrier of police patrols the capital and its outskirts during yesterday's hartal called by a few Islamist parties. The photo was taken from Dhaka-Narayanganj road in Signboard area.

PHOTO: STAR

No graft in AL regime*Claims prime minister*UNB, *Jessore*

Launching a scathing attack on Khaleda Zia for massive corruption during her regime, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said no one could say there had been corruption in the Padma Bridge project, there was only an allegation of a conspiracy to commit corruption.

"But, during the tenure of the BNP-Jamaat alliance government, the World Bank had stopped funding in communications and power sectors due to their massive corruption," said Hasina.

The prime minister made the remark at a mammoth public meeting organised by Jessore district unit of Awami League held at the Central Eidgah Ground in Jessore town with district unit AL president Ali Reza Raju in the chair.

Referring to the recent remarks of the opposition leader that Awami League fears the freedom fighters, Hasina said there is no reason for her party to fear the war heroes as because it was her party that had led

the struggle in emergence of an independent country under the leadership of Bangabandhu.

She alleged that when the present government is moving ahead with the trial of war criminals, the opposition party along with Jamaat-Shibir is enforcing hartals and killing people, vandalising vehicles and torching those to thwart the trial.

Mentioning that the opposition leader had whitened black money paying fine and turned Bangladesh into a corrupt country with massive corruption of her sons, Hasina said, "It's like the thief's mother screams louder."

She said, "When the opposition leader had been in India as prime minister, she didn't raise the Ganges water sharing issue. This time she (Khaleda) went to New Delhi to oil the Indian government... she speaks one thing but acts another as she has become crazy for returning to power."

Citing her government actions against various corruptions and

irregularities like the Hallmark scam, she said her government wants to eradicate the menace from the country and establish transparency and accountability in all sectors.

Hasina said the people of Bangladesh never want to see those to return to power who are making ill-efforts in many ways to foil the trial of the war criminals.

She further said the Jessore pourasava would be turned into a municipality if her party is voted to power again in the next general election.

Earlier, the prime minister inaugurated the National-e-Service system at the Central Eidgah. Prior to that, Hasina inaugurated the "Bangabandhu Memorial Mural" at Bakultala on Garibshah Road in Jessore.

Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, ICT Minister Mostafa Faruque Mohammad and AL Joint General Secretary Mahbub-ul-Alam Hanif, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Verdict of Khalaf murder case on Dec 30

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A speedy trial tribunal of Dhaka will deliver verdict on December 30 in the Saudi official Khalaf Al Ali murder case.

Judge Mohammad Motahar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 in Dhaka fixed the date after hearing of arguments from both the prosecution and the defence yesterday.

The defence lawyers told the court that the prosecution has failed to prove the charges brought against their clients.

They also said they appealed to the court for acquittal of their clients of the charges.

Earlier on December 17, the prosecution of the case concluded their arguments and appealed to the court for giving capital punishment to the five accused involved in the killing.

The accused are Mohammad Al Amin, Saiful Islam Mamun, Rafiqul Islam Khokon, Akbar Ali Lalu and Selim Chowdhury. Of them, Selim is on the run while the others are in police custody.

Khalaf, an official at the consular section of the Saudi embassy in Dhaka, was shot dead near his Gulshan house in the capital's diplomatic enclave on March 6 this year.



PHOTO: BSS

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Dhaka University Political Science Alumni Association will organise a discussion "Dynamics of Bangladesh Politics"; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 3:30pm.

Citizens' rally

Nagorik Sanghati will hold a citizens' rally demanding construction of dams to protect crops in Haor areas; Venue: before Bangladesh National Museum; Time: 11:00am.

Procession

National Garment Workers Federation will organise a procession demanding, among others, "safe workplaces"; Venue: from

WEATHER TODAY

Thick fog likelyUNB, *Dhaka*

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Thick fog may occur over the river basins and moderate to thick fog elsewhere over the country during night till noon, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:17pm and rises tomorrow at 6:37am.

Country's highest temperature 27.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.4 degrees at Rajshahi.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius	Humidity percentage
Max: Dhaka	Min: 15.0
Chittagong	98
Rajshahi	99
Rangpur	83
Khulna	100
Barisal	75
Sylhet	94
Max: 21.8	78
Min: 16.1	89
Morning	
Evening	

Dhaka College student shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals shot and injured a student of Dhaka College at Nilkhel intersection in the capital early yesterday.

The victim, Zulfikar Ali, a master's student of management department, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital following the incident.

Zulfikar told journalists that two youths suddenly appeared on a motorbike and fired two bullets, one of which hit his right leg while he was having tea at a makeshift tea stall near New Market's second gate around 1:00am.

He could not recognise the criminals. Zulfikar said he was not sure why the criminals shot him as he has no enemy with anyone.

Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of New Market Police Station, said they heard about the incident but have no detail.

No case was filed in this connection.

Stand against campaign maligning Bangladesh*Dipu Moni urges Bangladeshis in UK*

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni alleged that an orchestrated campaign was on to malign the country's image and urged the Bangladeshi community abroad to stand against those vested quarters.

Addressing the Bangladeshi community in Birmingham and Midlands at Birmingham City Council on Tuesday, she pointed out the present government's achievements in institutionalising democracy and attaining substantial progress in socio-economic sectors.

Dipu Moni, in the first ever visit of any Bangladeshi foreign minister to Birmingham of England, met the community, the council members, cabinet members and councilors of Midlands.

CARRYING PHENSEDYL
Charge sheet filed against arrested judge

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday charged the detained senior assistant judge of Bhola District Judge's Court, Javed Imam, with carrying illicit drugs.

The investigation officer, Sub-inspector Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

The charge sheet showed 15 people as prosecution witnesses and said the charge was primarily proved and the accused should face trial.

New Market police arrested Javed Imam with 342 bottles of Phensedyl in the capital on December 1.

He is detained in Dhaka Central Jail.