

NEWS IN *brief*

JU bird fair to begin Friday

JU CORRESPONDENT
A twelve-day bird fair will begin at Jahangirnagar University (JU) on Friday amid festivity and fanfare. The fair will be organised by JU zoology department in cooperation with Wild Life Rescue Centre. The fair includes inter-university bird identification competition, bird photo exhibition, bird witnessing by children on JU lakes and drawing competition, and speech competition on birds. The fair is held every year with a view to creat-

Rokeya university stops admission

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur
The authorities of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur have postponed admission process of students of honours programme for the academic session 2012-13, said a press release yesterday. Earlier, the authorities fixed January 23 and January 24 for admitting the new students under 2012-13 academic session. The authorities said they will announce the

History as compulsory subject stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Educationalists at a discussion yesterday stressed the need to make history a compulsory subject at every level of education. There is no scope to study the subject at any of the 54 private universities or at the 2,233 MPO listed madrasahs, said Dr Mohammad Selim at the discussion at Jatiya Press Club in the capital. Among the 34 public universities of the country, only six are providing facilities to study history, he added. Historian Muntasir Mamun, Shariar Kabir, renowned writer and journalist, Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, and Gowher Rizvi, prime minister's inter-

US envoy lauds successes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
US Ambassador in Dhaka Dan W Mozena yesterday lauded Bangladesh's successes in educational, cultural, and social sectors and said the US would continue its assistance in these areas for the country's further progress. Mozena said this at a reception organised in his honour by Greater Jainta Khasi Kalyan Samity in Jaintapur upazila. Earlier, he visited the shrine of great Muslim

ACC sues suspended Sonali Bank AGM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued a suspended assistant general manager of Sonali Bank for not submitting his wealth statement to the ACC. Saiful Hasan, of Sonali Bank Ruposhi Bangla branch, has earlier been suspended for his alleged involvement in Hall-Mark loan scam. The ACC filed the case with Gulshan Police Station. On October 10 last year, the ACC served a notice on the AGM asking him to submit the wealth statement of him, his wife and family members depend on him, by seven days.

Two more lynched

STAR REPORT
In a span of three days, three people were killed in three identical incidents in Gazipur where all the victims were suspected to be kidnappers, all attacked by mobs, and all thought to be mentally imbalanced. On Saturday, a 35-year-old woman was beaten to death in Kaliakoir. She was attacked by locals when a teenage girl took her to be a kidnapper and screamed for help after the victim entered the girl's house in the neighbourhood. Just two days later, yesterday, an unidentified man and woman were killed by mobs in Konabari, both now thought to be mentally challenged. Witnesses and police said people caught a man who "looked mad", suspecting him to be a kidnapper around 6:00am. They tied him to a tree and beat him. Later, he was taken near a garment factory when the workers slit his throat with a knife. Police rescued him in a critical condition and took him to the sadar hospital and then to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he breathed his last. Meanwhile, a disabled woman was beaten to death and allegedly set on fire by locals in front of a market in the presence of Bangladesh Ansar personnel. Witnesses and police said she was sitting in front of a shop with a sack around 6:00am when a man asked her what was inside her sack and where she was from. The woman showed that she only had some biscuits, banana and a cold drink and replied that she was from Narayanganj. By that time, a mob had gathered around her and soon "some overenthusiastic people" started to beat her up. Throngs of people joined in until she was dead. To ensure her death, they set her body on fire. Even though police and ansar members were present on the spot, they did not try to stop the incident. Ansar sepoy Mizanur Rahman said, "Hundreds of people beat her and set her on fire. We tried to disperse the crowd but failed." Locals said there was a reigning fear in the area about kidnappers, which propelled people to take matters into their own hands.

BCL men intrude into SBMC female hostel at night

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Some local leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) intruded into a female hostel of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College (SBMC) in Barisal yesterday after midnight to occupy rooms for their female activists. Campus sources and students said Maruf Hossain and Abu Sayem, leaders of BCL-led "Student Welfare Committee" of SBMC, intruded into the female hostel on the campus around 9:00pm on Sunday and again after midnight. They knocked on several rooms of the five-storied hostel building, inquiring the legality of the hostel's resident students, and told the residents to vacate a room on the hostel's third-floor to accommodate some female BCL activists. Protesting the incident, hundreds of female resident students of the hostel held a demonstration, human chain and rally on the campus yesterday. They also submitted a memorandum to SBMC authorities with a 10-point demand, including punishment of the intruders and security of the hostel residents. The authorities formed a six-member committee to investigate into the matter immediately.



Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Kendrio Committee celebrates before the High Court on the delivery of the maiden International Crimes Tribunal verdict, ordering death sentence to Abul Kalam Azad, known as Bachchu Razakar, yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Nation celebrates maiden verdict

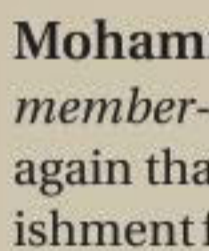
The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday passed a death sentence on Abul Kalam Azad alias Bachchu Razakar for committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War. Here are some reactions to the judgment.

Taramon Bibi for earliest execution

BSS, Rangpur
Freedom fighter Taramon Bibi Bir Pratik termed historic the death sentence passed by the International Crimes Tribunal-2 in its maiden judgment on Abul Kalam Azad alias Bachchu Razakar in a war crimes case yesterday. "With this verdict, the nation started to become free from a four-decade-old stigma and I want to see its execution at the soonest possible time," an ailing Taramon told in an exclusive interview with the news agency. "The verdict ushers in a new era as I still remember atrocities committed by war criminals, Razakars, Al-Badr, Al-Shams and anti-liberation forces in 1971," she said, demanding immediate completion of trial of all war criminals. She thanked the present government for its pre-election commitment to complete the war crimes trial. "The nation is now united on the trial and execution issue of the war criminals to safeguard independence and sovereignty," she said.



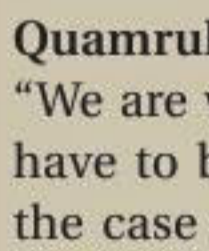
Mahbubey Alam, attorney general -- "This is a verdict of freedom and of sovereignty. Now it has been proven that the criminals had committed crimes, not only against humanity but also against civilisation."



Mohammad Nasim, Awami League member-- "It has been proven once again that there is no escape from punishment for a criminal."



Dilip Barua, industries minister-- "Through this verdict, it has been proven once again that there is no place for war criminals on the soil of Bangladesh."



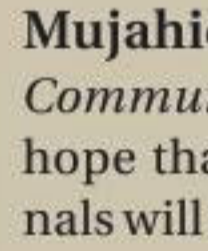
Quamrul Islam, state minister for law -- "We are welcoming the verdict but we have to be aware until the disposal of the case at the Appellate Division. We have to wait till that day."



Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah, Bir Uttam, sector 3 commander during the Liberation War-- "I will be happier when the verdict is executed."



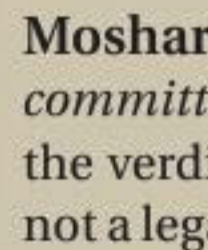
Rashed Khan Menon, president of Workers' Party of Bangladesh-- "The process of freeing the nation from the stigma attached to it for the last 42 years has begun with the delivery of the verdict."



Mujahidul Islam Selim, president of Communist Party of Bangladesh-- "We hope that the trial of other war criminals will be completed soon."



Hasanul Haq Inu, information minister and president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-- "It has been proven through the verdict that no one is above the law."



Mosharrif Hossain, BNP standing committee member-- "I have heard that the verdict has been delivered. As I am not a legal expert, I do not want to comment on it."



Mahbub-ul-Alam Hanif, Awami League joint general secretary-- "Those who have been awarded punishment by the International Crimes Tribunal will be traced wherever they are hiding... and will be executed."

Bangladesh rid of stigma States law minister

UNB, Dhaka
Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the nation got rid of its stigma with the death sentence against Abul Kalam Azad alias Bachchu Razakar for his crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War. "The trial of war criminals was supposed to start long ago, but it did not for political reasons. Through the verdict, people's expectations have been fulfilled," he told journalists at his secretariat office. International Crimes Tribunal-2, in its maiden judgment yesterday, passed a death sentence on Bachchu Razakar, expelled from Jamaat-e-Islami and tried in absentia, in a war crimes case. Shafique said Bachchu Razakar could appeal against the verdict in the Supreme Court's Appellate Division within 30 days of the judgment's pronouncement by surrendering to the court. "As the trial was held under a special law, he would not get a time extension after 30 days," he said, adding that the foreign and home ministries would find him and, if hiding aboard, bring him back.

Socio-political groups hail verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Different political and socio-cultural organisations yesterday expressed satisfaction and celebrated the death sentence International Crimes Tribunal-2 passed on Abul Kalam Azad alias Bachchu Razakar, who was expelled from Jamaat-e-Islami. Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Sector Commanders Forum and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal held rallies and demonstrations in the capital to celebrate the verdict. Communist Party of Bangladesh, Amra Muktijoddhar Shontan, Uttaradhikar '71, Muktijoddha Oikya Parishad and Bangladesh Awami Muktijoddha Projonmo League also

held different programmes. UNB reports: The ruling Awami League (AL), its associate and other like-minded parties brought out processions. AL Dhaka city unit brought out a procession from Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital. Jubo League brought out a rally from Bangabandhu Avenue thanking the government. Dhaka University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out a procession from Madhur Canteen. BCL activists also brought out processions at Jagannath University, Eden College, Government Poet Kazi Nazul College, Dhaka College and Bangla College. Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
National Human Rights Commission will organise a national seminar, "The ILO convention relating to ethnic minorities"; Venue: Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan; Time: 10:00am.
Human chain
Communist Party of Bangladesh will form a human chain protesting against the recent baton charge of law enforcers on demonstrations in Paltan intersection over the rape and murder of a child; Venue: Shantinagar intersection; Time: 11:30am.
Views-exchange meeting
Brac will organise a views-exchange meeting on ways to prevent rape and murder of children and women; Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 10:00am.
National conference
Terre des hommes Foundation Italia will organise a national conference on "Psychological support for disadvantaged children"; Venue: LGED Office, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon; Time: 9:00am.
Advisory meeting
Nagorik Sanghati will hold a advisory meeting on barriers to measures taken to deal with post-disaster situations and what needs to be done; Venue:

WEATHER TODAY

Little change in temperature
UNB, Dhaka
Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said. Mild cold wave is sweeping over Rangpur division and the regions of Rajshahi and Pabna. Strong cold wave is continuing and spread over north and north western part of the country. Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:38pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.** Country's highest temperature 29.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 09.0 degrees at Dinajpur. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	24.8	16.0	53	54
Chittagong	26.6	17.2	82	61
Rajshahi	23.5	09.7	81	67
Rangpur	23.8	09.2	82	65
Khulna	24.0	15.5	69	83
Barisal	24.8	15.5	71	73