

NEWS IN

brief

War crimes trial at district, upazila levels possible: Law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Holding the trial of war criminals will be possible at district and upazila levels through the two international crimes tribunals, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told the parliament yesterday.

In response to lawmakers' queries, he said the government is determined to complete the trial.

The trial of war criminals is going on at the tribunals maintaining international standard, he said.

Steps have been taken to form an anti-terrorism special tribunal to hold trial of top criminals and members of militant organisations soon, he

Muggers kill man in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed and his friend was injured allegedly by muggers on the rail tracks near Cantonment Rail Station in the capital on Tuesday night.

The deceased was Projason Chambugong, 23, and the injured was Chiang Tun, 23.

Projason's uncle Sudarshan Chambugong said some muggers attacked the victims when they were returning to their residence from Mirpur around 10:00pm.

Government Railway Police (GRP) of Kamalapur Police Station sent the body to Dhaka Medical

Training course on transnational organised crime ends today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The closing ceremony of an international training course on "Transnational Organised Crime: Saarc Perspective" will be held at Police Staff College, Bangladesh in the capital today.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hassan Mahmood Khandker will attend the programme as the chief guest, and distribute certificates among the participants of the course.

Seventeen police officers from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives participated

Man 'kills' wife, daughter in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A woman and her infant daughter were strangled allegedly by her husband for dowry in West Rosulpur area of Narayanganj sadar upazila yesterday.

The victims were Jharna Begum, 20, wife of truck helper Sadekur Rahman and her 40-day-old baby Sabiha.

Jharna's mother Kohinur Begum alleged that Sadekur killed her daughter and granddaughter after failing to realise Tk 60,000 as dowry.

Sadekur remains absconding after the incident. Police sent the bodies to Narayanganj General



The frothy appearance of the Karnaphuli river in Chittagong reveals the magnitude of toxic effluent being discharged into the river from adjoining industries, including Karnaphuli Paper Mills. Such malpractice by government establishments only encourages the general populace into carrying out rampant pollution. The photo was taken from Chandraghona Paper Mill area recently.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

JAIL KILLING CASE

Summon Moazzem, Khairuzzaman

Attorney General urges SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday urged the SC to summon BNP leader Shah Moazzem Hossain and Maj (retd) Khairuzzaman to hear about the conspiracy to kill the four national leaders in Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

Both Moazzem, a state minister of the government led by president Khandakar Mushtaq Ahmed, and Khairuzzaman were acquitted by a lower court in 2004 from the killing charges, he said.

Mahbubey was placing arguments before the Supreme Court's Appellate Division during a government appeal hearing against a High Court verdict acquitting six former army personnel in the jail killing case.

The six are Marfat Ali Shah, Abdul Hashem Mridha, Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Lt Col (retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Maj (retd) Bazlul Huda and Maj (retd) AKM Mohiuddin

Ahmed.

Mahbubey also prayed to award capital punishment to the accused.

Citing the prosecution witnesses' statements, he said Khandakar held three meetings with the accused on November 2, 1975 at Bangabhaban where the decision to kill the leaders was taken.

Next morning, Risaldar Muslemuddin and his associates killed the leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, AHM Quamruzzaman and Captain Mansur Ali, said Mahbubey.

In 1976, Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury and Waliur Rahman, officers of the then foreign affairs ministry, gave appointment letters to some killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the four leaders for jobs in Libya, he said.

Bangabandhu and his family's murderers were involved in the conspiracy to kill the leaders, he said adding that the lower court and the HC in their verdicts had ignored the conspiracy charges.

Anti-war criminal demos continue in Ctg, RU

4 suspected infiltrators held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Countrywide demonstrations demanding death penalty for war criminals, including Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah, continued yesterday.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: It was the eighth day of demonstrations in Chittagong as people irrespective of age, sex and religion, converged before Chittagong Press Club to express solidarity with the demand.

Police detained two youths suspected to be Islami Chhatra Shibir activists from the area. They are Nazrul Islam, 22, son of late Obaidullah of Noakhali's Senbag upazila, and Anwar Hossain, 21, son of late Abdul Mannan of Feni sadar upazila.

Our Rajshahi University correspondent reports: Over 2,000 students, teachers and staff took part in the demonstrations at "Gonomancha" in Tukitaki Chattar for the seventh day.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports: Police on Tuesday arrested two persons for impersonating ATN Bangla journalists while recording a video of a demonstration in Alupotty of Rajshahi city.

The arrestees are Mahmud Ali Bappi, 23, of Achintola area; and Sadekul Islam, 21, of Chatmohor in Pabna district.

Pahela Falgun fills Boi Mela with colours, crowd

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Amar Ekushey Boi Mela took on a festive look yesterday on the occasion of Pahela Falgun.

Besides yellow and orange, many visited the fair dressed in black to show solidarity to the ongoing mass movement at Shahbagh in demand of capital punishment for the war criminals.

Some adorned themselves with floral ornaments while some carried the national flag while some wore ribbons engraved with "Rajakarar Fashi Chai" message on their foreheads.

Khalilur Rahman, a businessman, came to visit the fair with his wife and two children, all dressed in black.

"My children were born and brought up in Italy. But they were always keen to visit the Boi Mela on Pahela Falgun after learning about it from Bangla television channels," he said.

Stalls of popular publications buzzed with book enthusiasts while some stalls gave away book markers to the visitors as a gift on the occasion of Pahela Falgun.

A total of 118 new books arrived at the fair yesterday.

The stall of Liberation War Museum brought in a book titled "History of Liberation Struggle of Bangladesh in Pictures".

Visitors, young and old, flocked in front of Nazrul Moncho and Bangla Academy building to take photos while Isha Kha, dressed up as a Mughal emperor, entertained the crowd with his flute melody.

DHAKA TODAY

Human chain

Care Bangladesh will form a human chain protesting violence against women; Venue: the Saarc fountain, Karwan Bazar; Time: 1:00pm.

Seminar

Ain o Salish Kendra will organise a seminar "The role of doctors, law enforcers and civil society in preventing violence against women and finding the remedies"; Venue:

Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Sangbadik Abdus Salam Smriti Sangsad will organise a discussion marking the 36th death anniversary of Abdus Salam; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Human chain

Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity will form a human chain protesting violence against women;

WEATHER TODAY

Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:53pm and rises tomorrow at 6:32am.

Country's highest temperature 31.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 11.2 degrees at Chuadanga.

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	29.0	18.8	57	37
Chittagong	24.7	18.6	67	80
Rajshahi	29.5	13.2	76	50
Rangpur	28.0	13.8	81	55
Khulna	27.5	17.2	79	81
Barisal	27.6	17.5	73	72
Sylhet	31.6	16.4	53	44



Journalist Abdul Matin passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Matin, an Independence Award winning journalist, writer and political activist, died due to old-age complications in a London hospital on Tuesday. He was 88.

He left behind his wife and a daughter, and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Matin was born in Noakhali on April 13 in 1924, says a press release.

He actively participated in movements during 1971 in the United Kingdom to drum up support for the independence of Bangladesh. He was also involved with pro-liberation Bangla dailies published from the UK during the period.

In his journalistic career, he served United Press of India, Daily Azad, Daily Sangbad, United Press of Pakistan and Pakistan Observer, among other media outlets.

Matin wrote many books on Bangabandhu, the Liberation War and other topics. He received the Independence Award in 2009.



A huge portrait of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam, mother of a martyred freedom fighter and the first to initiate the movement for trial of war criminals, stands tall at the centre of the demonstrations in the capital's Shahbagh after being unveiled by former student leaders and cultural personalities yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

ACID ATTACK ON REKHA BEGUM

Attackers still not held after six years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Acid Crime Control Act states that acid throwers must be tried within 90 working days of committing the crime, but police could not even arrest the people who threw acid on Rekha Begum in Narail six years ago, said Monira Rahman, executive director of Acid Survivors Foundation.

It was reported that local representatives and politicians are trying to protect the attackers in this case, Monira said in a statement yesterday.

Moreover, there is a request to the National Committee on Withdrawal of Politically Motivated Cases to withdraw the case, she added, urging the committee to reject the request.

Monira said 13 acid throwers were awarded death sentence in the last 10 years but none of the sentences were executed so far.

According to government statistics, there were 1,779 cases of acid violence in 2002-2012. Out of 4,569 people accused of such crimes, only 558 were arrested. Only 170 cases of acid violence ended in convictions.

Corruption results from lack of good governance

Discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday blamed lack of good governance and lack of implementation of Right to Information (RTI) Act for corruption in the country.

If the RTI act did work effectively in Bangladesh, corruption would reduce by 50 percent, said Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna.

"The act could bring more successes if political leaders were more conscious about it," he told the discussion on "Alternative Path to Good Governance: Insights for Bangladesh" in the capital's Brac University.

He suggested increasing engagement of NGOs alongside government institutions in enforcing and implementing the RTI act, which came into force in 2009.

Former adviser to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan viewed that good governance was not ensured because there was no political will.

The Padma bridge project is not being implemented properly due to allegations of corruption, and that is because of lack of good governance, he said.

Hafizuddin said unlike India, the RTI act was very weak in Bangladesh.

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), a research body of Brac University, organised the discussion to project the objectives of its ongoing research on good governance.

The research work will encompass four sectors--healthcare, RTI, banking, and information and communication technology, said IGS lead researcher Ashikur Rahman.