

NEWS IN *brief*

Abdul Jalil to undergo surgery today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Jalil, an Awami League lawmaker and former general secretary of the party, will undergo heart bypass surgery at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore today.

The senior AL leader was taken to hospital after becoming sick on February 25.

Abdul Jalil has long been suffering from differ-

Singer Nolak handed over to police for rowdy behaviour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Biman officials at Sylhet Osmani International Airport yesterday handed over two passengers, including Close up-1 star Nolak Babu, to airport police for their misbehavior.

Being intoxicated, Nolak and Amir Ahmed misbehaved with an air hostess and other passengers in a flight that took off from London for Sylhet and Dhaka, said immigration police. Filing of a case was under process with Airport Police Station at the

Muggers shoot police

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Unidentified muggers shot and injured a sub-inspector of the Detective Branch of police in Bhogra area of Gazipur Sadar upazila yesterday.

Mohammad Hasan, 40, with a bullet-wound in his chin, was shifted to the capital's Apollo Hospitals from Gazipur Sadar Hospital.

He was shot when he and his team tried to catch the muggers. The muggers escaped in their own

Train derails in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A shuttle train derailed near Khoksa Railway Station in Kushtia yesterday.

At least five passengers were injured in stampedes as they scrambled for getting down from the train during the incident.

Shamsul Alam, the station master, said three bogies out of nine of the Poradah-bound train from Rajbari ran off the railway tracks at about 11:00am.

Train services were suspended for nine hours on Goalondo-Khulna and Goalondo-Rajshahi

Chattagram Samity-Dhaka invites applications for stipend

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattagram Samity-Dhaka has invited applications for stipend from meritorious and insolvent students, of greater Chittagong district, studying in first year for a Bachelor's Degree in 2012-13 academic session in different government institutions.

The applications along with necessary documents must reach the general secretary of Chattagram Samity-Dhaka by March 31, said a press release yesterday.

Applicants should collect the application form from the Chawkbazar branch of United



Activists of Shahbagh Gonojagoron Mancha bring out a procession in the capital yesterday against the countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal called by Jamaat-e-Islami on the day of verdict declaration on war criminal Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee. The photo was taken in front of Jatiya Press Club.

PHOTO: STAR

Cross-section of organisations welcome verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political and cultural organisations yesterday hailed the capital punishment verdict delivered in the case against Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee and demanded execution of the verdict as early as possible.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday sentenced Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayedee to death for committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

Eight of the 20 charges against Sayedee, 73, including looting, killing, arson, rape and forcefully converting people into Muslims during the Liberation War, were proven beyond doubt.

Expressing satisfaction over the verdict, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and Dhaka Union of Journalists leaders, in a joint statement, said Bangladesh advanced one step forward in erasing the stigma associated with it.

National Coordination Committee of Muktijuddher Chetona Bastobayon O Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul praised all initiators of Gono Adalaot (people's court) and the People's Inquiry Commission which identified the war criminals and their collaborators.

The committee's leaders also praised Ganojagoron Manchas around the country and the prosecutors of the international crimes tribunals.

Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal leaders, in a joint statement, said the verdict reflects the victory of the movement the country's people have been waging against war criminals.

They urged to destroy the sources of finance and arms of Jamaat and pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir, ban them and continue the youth movement.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh leaders said the historical verdict established justice following people's expectations.

Uttaradhikar Ekattur demanded execution of the verdict as early as possible and bringing other war criminals to book while Ganosangskritik Front demanded capital punishment for the remaining alleged war criminals on trial.

Bangladesh Jub Moitree said it expects Bangladesh to be a country which was non-communal, democratic and free from repression. Bangabandhu Krishibid Parishad and Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh also expressed satisfaction over the verdict.

REACTION OF SHAHBAGH LEADERS

After the passing of death sentence on Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee, thousands celebrated the verdict wholeheartedly at Projonmo Chattar of Shahbagh where anti-war criminal campaigners have been demonstrating for the last 24 days. Some of the organisers of the movement talked to The Daily Star and shared their reactions about the movement and the verdict.



Lucky Akhter

I think it is a great achievement for all of us. Jamaat-Shibir has created anarchy to influence the verdict, but the mass people resisted it.

The Shahbagh movement does not end here, and the verdict will act as an inspiration for us to take the movement forward.

We demand death penalty for all war criminals and banning of Jamaat-Shibir for their committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971. We will continue our movement till fulfilment of our demands.



Maruf Rosul

I think the anarchy of Jamaat-Shibir put a psychological strain on the International Crimes Tribunals. But the movement of Gonojagoron Mancha joined by people of all walks of life has helped the tribunal work independently and without fear.

We hope that the tribunal will sentence Quader Mollah and other war criminals to death as well. Our movement will continue because we are still to achieve the ultimate victory. We demand death penalty for all war criminals, we want Jamaat-Shibir to be banned.



Shamima Sultana

If we term this movement as the second phase of the Liberation War, then we would like to say that this is the initial victory of this second liberation war.

On February 5, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 sentenced Abdul Quader Mollah to life term imprisonment, which was completely unacceptable. Following that, we together with the masses have launched a strong movement demanding death penalty for war criminals.

The movement will continue till sentencing of all other war criminals to death.



SM Shuva

The verdict has established justice in one hand and reflected people's expectation on the other.

The government has amended the International Crimes Tribunal Act due to the 24 days' movement, which started off from Shahbagh and spread throughout the country.

So we can obviously say that the movement has made some significant achievements. We have the plan for carrying out a long-term movement to establish a prosperous and secular Bangladesh, imbued in the spirit of our Liberation War of 1971.



Sponsored walk

Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed will arrange a sponsored walk to raise funds for the centre; Venue: Rabindra Sarobar; Time: 7:00am.

Swadhinata mancha

Jatiya Ganotantrik League and five other organisations will set up a

"Swadhinata Mancha" to make country free of war criminals; Venue: Shaheed Smriti Mancha, southern side of Suhrawardy Udyan; Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Trade Union Centre will hold a discussion in memory of murdered labour leader Tajul Islam;



Weather likely to remain dry

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country till 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:01pm and rises tomorrow at 6:20am.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 12.5 degree Celsius at Sreemangal.

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

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.0	17.4	45	34
Chittagong	31.7	20.0	67	66
Rajshahi	32.8	14.3	68	39
Rangpur	30.2	15.8	68	58
Khulna	32.4	16.0	64	59
Barisal	32.0	15.0	60	57
Sylhet	33.7	17.3	67	35



Convener of the Bloggers and Online Activists Network and spokesperson of Shahbagh Gonojagoron Mancha Imran H Sarker and other youths celebrate the news of verdict on Jamaat-e-Islami nayeb-e-ameer and war criminal Delawar Hossain Sayedee at the Mancha in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Capital dredging of rivers after Aug: Ramesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will begin capital dredging of the important and large rivers in the country after August this year to bring back their navigability, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen told parliament yesterday.

He also said a two-year long feasibility study titled "Capital Dredging and Sustainable River Management in Bangladesh" is going on.

The government has already prepared a concept paper to carry out the dredging works with a cost of Tk 50,014 crore in 15 years, he said.

The dredging works will be completed in different phases, he further said.

The minister also described the present government's various efforts in digging canals and improving water management system.

VERDICT AGAINST SAYEDEE Ctg celebrates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Like elsewhere in the country, people in Chittagong city yesterday expressed satisfaction on hearing the verdict of capital punishment for Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

People brought out jubilation processions in the port city's different areas, including Lalkhan Bazaar, New Market, No. 2 Gate, Jamalkhan, Halishahar, Badamtoli and Agrabad.

Soon after the verdict was declared, hundreds of people gathered at the Gonojagoron Mancha in Chittagong, expressing satisfaction at the verdict while chanting slogans like "Jiteche Re Jiteche, Bir Bangali Jiteche." They also brought out a jubilation procession from there.

Sharif Chouhan, convener of Samprodayikota Birodhi Torun Uddog, Chittagong, said the hopes and expectations of the new generation have been reflected through the verdict for Sayedee.

"We want capital punishment for other war criminals in Bangladesh," said Prof AQM Serajul Islam, convener of Gonojagoron Mancha, Chittagong.

Meanwhile, the Gonojagoron Mancha in front of Chittagong Press Club was reverberating with slogans and inspirational songs since the morning, protesting the Jamaat-e-Islami called countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal yesterday.