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Verdict in Biswajit murder case today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court will deliver the verdict in the sensational Biswajit murder case today.

Twenty-one Chhatra League men of Jagannath University are accused in the case.

Judge ABM Nizamul Haque of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 will pronounce the judgment at about 12:00 noon, court sources said.

Biswajit Das, 24, a tailor, was hacked to death in public on his way to his tailoring shop at Shakhariabazar in Old Dhaka during the opposition's countrywide road-blockade programme on December 9 last year.

Mistaking him for a blockader, the BCL activists of Jagannath University unit swooped on him in

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48 dead had no link with politics

ZYMA ISLAM and RAFIUL ISLAM

None of the 48 people who died and around 400 others injured was affiliated with politics, but they became victims of violence in 26 days of hartals and blockades imposed by the opposition alliance since November.

The families of those died and injured told The Daily Star that the victims had come under attacks when they were out on their daily works.

"Why don't the pickets understand that we go out even during hartals and blockades because we have to earn a living?" lamented Alam Kazi, son of Anwara Begum who died of a head injury caused by a crude bomb explosion.

A cook by profession, Anwara was returning home from work on November 26 when the incident took place.

As many as 89 people became victim of arson attacks for being on the roads during hartals and blockades over the one and a half months.

The victims are generally needy people

who had to use public transports like buses, human hauliers, pick-up vans and CNG-run auto-rickshaws for a living.

Montu Chandra Paul, a goldsmith at Tanti Bazar who died in an arson attack in Laxmibazar on November 10, was on his way home from work on a pick-up van.

Hailing from Tangail, he had left home for the capital to support his poverty-stricken family, said his brother Jhantu Chandra Paul.

"He said he would save some money and come back to see me," said Montu's 70-year-old mother holding one of the correspondents, crying.

Thirteen-year-old Shimul was in no way involved in politics. He used to work as a human haulier conductor to help his rickshaw-puller father manage the family. He was burnt inside the vehicle on November 11.

Had his father been able enough, the boy would not have to go to work and get admitted with 15 percent body burns at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

"I have nightmares about the time when I

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WORLD CUP IN DHAKA

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveils the FIFA World Cup trophy at the Gono Bhaban yesterday. The coveted trophy is making its maiden visit to Bangladesh as part of its world tour. The most prestigious global sporting piece of glory will remain at the Radisson Hotel as all the scheduled trophy display programmes billed for the Bangabandhu National Stadium for today and tomorrow will now be held at the posh hotel.

PHOTO: PID



US asks for explanation on polls plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United States is waiting for an explanation from the Bangladesh government about how the January 5 elections are going to be held, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday, after a meeting with US Ambassador in Dhaka Dan W. Mozena.

"Election means casting of votes by the people. It is not happening," Muhith quoted Mozena as saying at the meeting.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Criminals shoot dead 2 workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals shot dead two construction workers and injured another at the site of an under-construction building in the capital's Badda area yesterday morning.

Police suspect that local miscreants, who tried to extort money from the land owner, were behind the shooting.

The deceased were identified as Faruque Hawlader, 30, a mason, and Milon Hawlader, 22, a day labourer. They had suffered bullet wounds in their chests.

Injured Mahmud Ghorami, 35, a brother-in-law of Milon, was fighting for his life at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet wound in his chest.

Three armed criminals came to the site at Maynarbagh around 8:30 am when five workers were digging the soil to build an underground water-tank, police and locals said.

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Imran jumps on pro-Mollah bandwagon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan's cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan seems to have been persuaded into believing that war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah, executed in Dhaka last week, was innocent of the charges levelled against him.

Khan, who heads the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party, told a session of his country's national assembly on Monday that Mollah's innocence had been testified to by a lawyer from the human rights group Reprieve. The lawyer, he said, was part of Mollah's legal defence team.

In his address, Imran Khan chose to ignore the

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Eminent citizens rap Pak resolution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's 36 eminent personalities yesterday slammed the resolution passed in Pakistan parliament that condemned the execution of convicted war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah.

Terming it an attempt to interfere in Bangladesh's domestic affairs, they expressed shock and anger at the adoption of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Technical glitches in 2 aircraft Biman passengers stranded for hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of air passengers have been held up for long hours in Bangladesh and three other countries, as two aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines were grounded due to technical glitches in the last two days.

Lack of hotel accommodation from the airline added to the sufferings of the passengers at Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka and the other airports in Kolkata, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Dhaka-bound Boeing 77 missed the flight from Kolkata on Monday, and Hong Kong-bound DC-10 missed the flight from Dhaka yesterday, leaving passengers stranded for a day in Kolkata and 10 hours in Dhaka.

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Roadside trees cut down by opposition activists in Rupdia area of Jessore. To snap communications, pickets put up barricades on roads and highways mostly with logs after felling trees, thus destroying greenery.

PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that the Election Commission has staged a drama of farcical polls through declaring 154 persons elected-unopposed?

Yes

(81%)

No

(19%)

TOTAL VOTES: 529

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Human Rights Watch (HRW) that the govt. should set up an independent commission to carry out investigations into the ongoing violence?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

YUSUF'S WAR TRIAL

Defence allowed to cross-examine witnesses again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The war crimes tribunal yesterday accepted petitions filed by the defence of Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf, seeking reopening of the cross-examination of seven prosecution witnesses.

Irrked by perpetual absence of Yusuf's conducting counsel from the court proceedings during opposition-enforced hartals and blockades, the judges had closed the cross-examination of the prosecution witnesses.

During the hearing on the petitions, the defence appealed to the court to summon the witnesses but the prosecution opposed it.

The three-member bench of the International Crimes Tribunal-2 said it had accepted the plea for the sake of justice.

The ICT-2 chairman, Justice Obaidul Hassan, with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam, however, asked the defence to pay Tk 40, 000 as the transport, food and accommodation cost of the witnesses, all from Bagerhat.

They also set December 23 for Yusuf's counsels to begin the cross-examination.

The conducting counsel, Syed Mizanur Rahman, did not appear in the court since November 25 citing "unavoidable situation."

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DIPLOMAT HARASSED

India hits back at US

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday hit back at the United States with a series of reprisal measures, including withdrawing identity cards for American consular officials in the country, in protest at the arrest and "barbaric treatment" of a diplomat in New York.

"We have ordered the withdrawal of all ID cards that are issued by the Ministry of External Affairs to the officials at the US consulates across India," ministry sources said.

"These cards facilitate speedy entry and movement of the people carrying them as they travel to Indian airports or other public areas."

The sources added that the Indian government would also stop all import clearances, including liquor, for the US embassy.

Indian security forces were removing police barricades from the streets near the US Embassy in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

The moves came in the wake of widespread outrage in India over the arrest of Indian Deputy Consul General Devyani Khobragade, 39, in New

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PRAYER TIMING

December 18

Fajr

5:20

5:55

Zohr

12:45

1:15

Asr

3:45

4:00

Maghrib

5:22


5:25

Esha

7:00

7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation



বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ
বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়
সচেতন নাগরিক সমাজের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ

সর্বসাধারণের সদয় অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বিগত পাঁচ বছরে বিদ্যুৎ খাতের উৎপাদন, সঞ্চালন ও বিতরণ ব্যবস্থার অভূতপূর্ব সাফল্য অর্জিত হয়েছে। ফলে আপনারা নিশ্চয়ই প্রত্যক্ষ করেছেন যে, বর্তমানে লোডশেডিং হ্রাসসহ বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবস্থার যথেষ্ট উন্নতি সাধিত হয়েছে। বিদ্যুৎ অবকাঠামো জাতীয় জনগুরুত্বপূর্ণ সম্পদ। বর্তমান পরিস্থিতিতে জাতীয় সম্পদ এর কোন ক্ষতি সাধিত হলে গ্রাহক তথা জনগণের-ই ভোগান্তি হবে।

বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ সকল বিদ্যুৎ স্থাপনার নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকল্পে নিরলসভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। বর্তমান অবস্থায় বিদ্যুৎ স্থাপনাসমূহের সার্বিক নিরাপত্তার স্বার্থে জনগণকে সচেতন থাকার জন্য আহ্বান জানানো হচ্ছে। জরুরী কোন প্রয়োজনে যে কোন ব্যক্তি/ প্রতিষ্ঠান নিম্নের টেলিফোন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন:

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ | (০২) ৯৫৭৬৫৬৮ |
| বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড (বিপিডিবি) | (০২) ৯৫৫৩১০০, ০১৮১৯ ২২৮৬১৬ |
| বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড (বিআরইবি) | (০২) ৮৯০০১২৯, ০১৭৪৯ ৬১৫২৩২ |
| ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ (ডিপিডিসি) | (০২) ৯৬৭০৭৩০, ০১৭৩০ ৩৪৫০৯৬ |
| ঢাকা ইলেকট্রিক সাপ্লাই কোম্পানী লিঃ (ডেসকো) | (০২) ৮৮১৪২১০, ০১৭৪১ ৩৩১৭৯৫ |
| ওয়েস্ট জোন পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ (ওজেপাডিকো) | (০৪১) ৭২৪৪৭২ |
| পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ (পিজিসিবি) | (০২) ৭১৭৭৮০৪, ০১৭১৩ ০৬৯১৮৬ |
| ইলেকট্রিসিটি জেনারেশন কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ (ইজিসিবি) | (০২) ৭৬৯২২৮৩, ০১৭৫৫ ৫৪০০৪৭ |
| আগুণ পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিঃ (এপিএসসিএল) | (০৮৫২৮) ৭৪৬০২, ৭৪২০৬ |
| রুরাল পাওয়ার কোম্পানী লিঃ (আরপিএসএল) | ০১৭১৮ ৭৯৮১৩১ |
| নর্থ ওয়েস্ট পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানী লিঃ (নওপাজেকো) | ০১৭৩০ ০৬৬৯৭৮ |

বিদ্যুৎ স্থাপনাসমূহের কোন ধরণের নাশকতার আশংকা দেখা গেলে সাথে সাথে স্থানীয় প্রশাসন এবং উপর্যুক্ত টেলিফোন নম্বর সমূহে জানানোর জন্য সকলকে বিনীত অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

২০২১ সালের মধ্যে সবার জন্য যৌক্তিকমূল্যে নির্ভরযোগ্য বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহই আমাদের লক্ষ্য।

সচিব
বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ