



As the temperature hovers around 10 degrees Celsius, warm clothing of a myriad of colours woo customers on the footpath outside New Market in the capital yesterday. Story on Page 5

AKM YUSUF'S WAR CRIMES TRIAL Prosecution's laxity prompts proceedings adjournment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-2 yesterday adjourned case proceedings against Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf until Sunday, expressing discontent over the prosecution's "lack of preparation".

Hearing a defence petition which stated that the 87-year-old was not well and has been facing physical problems travelling between ICT-2 and Kashimpur Jail in Gazipur in the cold, the tribunal also exempted him from personal appearance.

However, the tribunal directed the jail authorities to produce the historically known founder of the infamous Razakar force during the 1971 Liberation War "only when asked". The prosecution did not oppose the petition.

Following another defence petition, ICT-2 permitted Yusuf's lawyers to inspect the

case's investigation report.

Yesterday Azab Uddin Mia, who is both the 20th prosecution witness and seizure list witness, began giving his testimony.

The case's investigation officer (IO), Helal Uddin, had seized copies of a large number of newspapers from the Bangla Academy library and Azab, an assistant librarian there, was supposed to exhibit those.

But when the tribunal asked Mohammad Zahid Imam, a junior prosecutor, to exhibit the documents having contents concerning the accused, he seemed to be perplexed.

Hrishikesh Saha, the case's conducting prosecutor, and Syed Haider Ali, who on several occasions represented the prosecution, were absent yesterday.

Justice Md Shahinur Islam, one of the three members of the tribunal, led by Justice

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Russian Ambassador in Dhaka Alexander A Nikolaev hands over a letter of greetings from Russian President Vladimir Putin to Sheikh Hasina on her assumption of office as the prime minister of Bangladesh at Gono Bhaban in the capital yesterday.

Four BNP leaders challenge denial of bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four BNP leaders yesterday challenged the order of a lower court that had earlier rejected their bail in two cases.

The BNP leaders are BNP standing committee members Moudud Ahmed, MK Anwar, Rafiqul Islam Miah and BNP chairperson's special assistant Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas.

The leaders also again sought bails in the cases filed with Motijheel Police Station.

Judge Md Zahirul Islam of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's of Dhaka fixed January 30 for hearing on the bail petitions.

Of the two cases, one was filed for killing sub-inspector Md Shahjahan during a clash between law enforcers and Hefajat men in the capital on May 5 last year. Another case was filed for vandalising and torching public property and vehicles, and attacking police on that day.

Earlier on January 9, a Dhaka court sent them to jail after rejecting 17 days' remand prayer in the cases. The court also denied them bail.

Police arrested Moudud, Anwar and Rafiqul on November 8 last year, and Shimul the following day.

On January 2, the BNP leaders were shown arrested in the two cases though their names were not included in the first information reports.

Nazmul Huda demands fresh poll in 90 days

Threatens to file petition if new schedule is not announced in next seven days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the January 5 poll unconstitutional and illegal, former BNP leader Barrister Nazmul Huda urged the government and Election Commission on Tuesday to arrange a fresh election within the next 90 days.

Huda, who claimed himself to be chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF), threatened to petition against that election if a fresh schedule is not announced within next seven days.

Addressing a press conference under BNF's banner at Dhaka Reporters Unity, he called the entire

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