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WARRANT OF PRECEDENCE
PM criticises SC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament yesterday criticised a Supreme Court verdict on Warrant of Precedence.

On January 6, the Appellate Division of the SC disposed of "with expunction, modification, observation and findings" a government appeal against a 2010 High Court order that declared illegal and void the existing Warrant of Precedence, formulated in 1986 and revised in 2008. But the full text of the order is yet to be released.

On January 7, newspapers quoting SC lawyer M Asaduzzaman reported the apex court ruled that the status of the chief justice would be equal to that of the Speaker in the Warrant

Suffering, silently

Violence gnaws at children's psychology

PORIMOL PALMA and WASIM BIN HABIB

Rubaiya shivers with fear whenever she hears a loud sound. The third grader of a private school in Dhaka was on her way back home with her father on a rickshaw just a week ago. As they reached near Abahani playground on Sat Masjid Road, they heard a large bang and saw people running helter-skelter.

Her father promptly took her to a nearby shop when Rubaiya began to cry out of panic.

"Whenever she hears a bang now she asks, 'What happened baba? Is it bombing again?'," her father Shimul said.

He added panic would grip even the adults if they witnessed such incidents, whereas his daughter was just a minor kid.

"Now if gory images of burn victims or political violence are shown on TV, I instantly change the channel so that she does not get scared again," he said.

Scores of children like Rubaiya are suffering from extreme anxiety and panic amid a

spate of political violence that killed at least 33 people, burned nearly 350 and left thousands injured.

However, publication and projection of the images of blood, explosion and arson are on the rise in the media, causing psychological damage to children, a fact that remains ignored.

Psychiatrists say frequent exposure to images of violence can lead children to developing anxiety and unwarranted fear, particularly when they are outdoors.

"Any violence or its pictorial exposure has huge negative impacts on people, especially children," said Prof Dr Azizur Rahman of psychology department at Dhaka University.

They become disrespectful to the society as well as the elders and politicians. As they grow up with fear, their confidence level remains low and they cannot trust others, Prof Rahman told The Daily Star.

All these impede mental development and some may have psychological disorder



A worried Amena Begum collects eggs from her poultry farm in Lalmonirhat's Fulgachh village. Her yield has been nearly halved as she cannot feed the chickens properly. There's an acute shortage of poultry feeds in local market as the ongoing blockade has dealt a major blow to the supply chain.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

SSC exams to be held on schedule

Says education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With fear of violence growing among students and their guardians due to the ongoing blockade, the government is going to hold Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent exams as per schedule.

"The exams will be held on schedule..." Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told reporters after a meeting with law enforcement agencies at the secretariat yesterday.

Nahid discussed the current law and order situation and other issues relating to the exam at the meeting.

Around 14 lakh candidates are expected to sit for this year's SSC and equivalent exams scheduled to begin on February 2.

Talking to reporters, Nahid said they had made all preparations to hold the exams in a peaceful manner, and urged all political parties to lift blockade and hartal.

There is no hartal or blockade going on in the country; what is happening in the name of blockade is



This recently taken photo shows a traffic police standing under what used to be a shade before being bent and mangled by a vehicle over a year ago at the capital's Fakirapool intersection.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Delete 'secular', 'socialist' from Indian charter

Demands Shiv Sena; Congress decries its omission from govt ad

PTI, Mumbai

A day after row erupted over a Republic Day advertisement of Indian Information and Broadcasting Ministry, the Shiv Sena yesterday demanded "permanent deletion" of the words 'secular' and 'socialist' from the Constitution.

An acrimonious war of words had broken out between political parties yesterday when an advertisement issued by the I&B Ministry carried a picture of the Preamble to the Constitution as it appeared before the 42nd Amendment, without the words 'secular' and 'socialist'.

"We welcome the exclusion of the (secular and socialist) words from the Republic Day advertisement. Though it might have been done inadvertently, it is like honouring the feelings of the people of India. If these words were deleted by mistake this time, they should be deleted from the

BURDWAN BLAST
4 more JMB operatives held in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's National Investigation Agency yesterday arrested four more alleged members and recruiters of outlawed Jama'at-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), which is linked to the October 2 Burdwan blast.

The four -- Dalim Sheikh alias Fajjul Hoque Sheikh, Motiur Rehman alias Noor Alam, Habibur Rehman and Ghiyasuddin Munshi -- were arrested in different areas of West Bengal and have been put on remand by a Kolkata court.

The NIA took over the case from West Bengal police in October after international links started surfacing behind the mysterious blast inside a house on October 2 last year that left one dead and another seriously wounded.

The NIA said they had learned that improvised explosive devices were being manufactured at that house and smuggled to neighbouring Bangladesh.

Giving details about yesterday's arrest, the NIA in a statement said Dalim Sheikh was a "full-time member" of JMB and was involved in setting up bases and hideouts, raising and collecting funds, radicalising youths and providing tactical and material support to their senior Bangladeshi members of JMB in spreading their network in India.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL
Azhar appeals against death sentence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam yesterday challenged the death penalty awarded to him by a war crimes tribunal last year.

In his appeal filed with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Azharul claimed himself innocent and sought acquittal on the five charges he was found guilty.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 on December 30 last year handed the Jamaat leader death penalty on three out of six charges of crimes against humanity committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

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PRAYER TIMING January 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	5-35	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-46	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

New Chairman and Vice Chairman of IUB Founding Trust



A. Matin Chowdhury Dr. Syed Serajul Huq

Mr. A. Matin Chowdhury, Managing Director of New Asia Limited has been elected Chairman of the Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT), the founding trust of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) for 2015-2016. Dr. Syed Serajul Huq, Chairman, Sea Pearl Lines Limited has been elected Vice Chairman.

Mr. Chowdhury, is a founder Trustee of ESTCDT. He joined the Liberation War of Bangladesh while a medical student in 1971 and was commissioned in the first batch of Officers of Bangladesh Army and led troops in Sector 6 (A) and was injured in action. In 1976 he took voluntary retirement from the Army as a Major. He then joined the family business and currently he is the Chairman of two companies and Managing Director of another five companies.

He is actively involved in social work, being the past Chairman of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) and current Chairman of Under Privileged Children's Educational Programme (UCEP). He is also associated with Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB) and other Educational and Social Organizations for promotion of Education and Healthcare for the underprivileged.

Dr. Huq is currently Sponsor Director and Chairman of Bean Monde Apparels Ltd, Bean Monde Garments Ltd and Tetash Refinery Co Ltd. He is also the Vice Chairman of Sonata Shipping Lines Ltd and Union Insurance Co Ltd. Besides, he is also associated with many social organizations, Past President, Rotary Club of Chittagong, Life and Permanent Member of Bhatiyari Golf and Country Club, Permanent Member of Chittagong Club Ltd and Past President of Barisal Bivaglio Samity, Chittagong.

The ESTCDT is a Trust set up by a group of like-minded individuals with the objective of "giving back" to society and the country. It is a genuinely non-profit body consisting of industrialists, business leaders and eminent personalities in academic, professional, diplomatic and public life. The ESTCDT prides itself that no Trustee receives or expects to receive any financial or any other personal benefit; all revenue is ploughed for further development of the institutions. The Trustees give a lot of time and effort for Independent University, Bangladesh, Dhaka and now Chittagong Independent University to create institutions of unparalleled excellence for students, teachers and society.

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)
Plot 16, Block B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka-1229.
Tel: 840 1645-53, 8402065-76 Fax: 88-02-8401991. Web: www.iub.edu.bd

Can evolution run backwards?

MAIL ONLINE

In 1890, Belgian palaeontologist Louis Dollo postulated that evolution could not run backwards -- something widely accepted by the scientific community.

But now a study has claimed that the changes induced by evolution can be reversible, meaning



ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for Rab Director General Benazir Ahmed to say that there is no extra-judicial killing in the country?

Yes (12%)

No (88%)

TOTAL VOTES: 409

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for the Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu to say that the political impasse in the country would be resolved on the streets, not at a table?

আমরা শোকাহত

আপামার গণমানুষের প্রিয় মুখ, শ্রমিক-জনতার প্রিয় নেতা, জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধুর আদর্শের সৈনিক মরহুম মৌলভী আচমত আলী খান, সাবেক এম.পি.-এর জ্যেষ্ঠ কন্যা এবং গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার-এর নৌ-পরিবহন মন্ত্রণালয়ের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা জনাব শাজাহান খান এম.পি.-এর বড় বোন অবসরপ্রাপ্ত স্কুল শিক্ষিকা জাহানারা বেগম বার্ষিক্যজনিত কারণে গত মঙ্গলবার ভোররাত ৩.০০ ঘটিকায় মাদারীপুর নিজ বাসভবনে ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তাঁর বয়স হয়েছিল ৭০ বৎসর। তিনি এক পুত্র, ৫ কন্যা ও অসংখ্য গুণগ্রাহী রেখে গেছেন।

বিআইডব্লিউটিএ অফিসার্স এসোসিয়েশন, বিআইডব্লিউটিএ এমপ্লয়ীজ ইউনিয়ন, বিআইডব্লিউটিএ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক ইউনিট কমান্ড এবং বিআইডব্লিউটিএ'র সর্বস্তরের কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীগণের পক্ষ থেকে মরহুমার শোক-সন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি। একই সাথে মহান আল্লাহর দরবারে তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফিরাত কামনা করছি।

বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নৌ-পরিবহন কর্তৃপক্ষ (বিআইডব্লিউটিএ)
প্রবহমান নদীর মাথে

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