

DCC commissioner Salimullah Solu arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces arrested a Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) ward commissioner at Mohammadpur in the capital yesterday.

Commissioner of DCC ward No. 42 Salimullah Solu, who is accused in a number of cases, was being interrogated at the Mohammadpur army camp till filing of this report at 9:00pm.

Earlier, at around 7:30pm, the joint forces arrested Solu, believed to be the ringleader of an organised crime cartel, during a raid on several houses in the area.

Mastermind of multiple crimes, including murder, extortion, mugging and land-grab, Solu went into hiding when the army-led country-wide clampdown on criminals began October 17 last year.

He is believed to be behind the recent surge in criminal activities in the Mohammadpur area.

On Tuesday, Solu, his brother and members of his gang looted a slum in the Jahuri area at Mohammadpur. He managed to escape when police arrested four of his men from the slum.

Police and local people say the ward commissioner may have engineered the murders of a ruling BNP leader and a contractor in the span of eight hours on Thursday.

Solu was elected in the DCC elections of April 25 last. He allegedly killed rival contender, Jubo Dal leader Wahiduzzaman to ensure victory in the polls.

Rivalry between them climaxed when Wahid, also with criminal records, refused to withdraw from the election despite Solu's repeated threats.

A few days later on March 28, Wahid was gunned down on the Tajmahal Road.

Solu was also shown arrested on

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UPDF activist killed in Rangamati in shootout with army

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

An activist of the United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) was killed and another wounded in a gunfight between the army men and UPDF activists in Borokulpara village under Naniarchar Upazila in Rangamati yesterday.

The army rounded up seven UPDF activists and recovered five firearms and 130 bullets.

A headline opponent of the peace treaty signed on December 2, 1997, the UPDF is accused of sporadic attacks, abduction and extortion in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

The army and police sources said Shuvapurna Chakma, 23, and Dema Chakma, 27, both UPDF activists, were injured in the 15-minute gun battle.

Shuvapurna died from bullet injuries at the Rangamati General Hospital. Dema was admitted to a

local hospital.

Sources said informants alerted the army to a suspected attack by some UPDF activists.

At dawn, the army cordoned off a thatched house in Borokulpara village at dawn yesterday.

The UPDF activists fired off, sensing the army presence and the army men returned the fire, said the sources.

Immediately after the encounter, the army searched the village and recovered three local guns, one 0.22 rifle and one 303 rifle.

The arrestees are Devo Ranjan Chakma, 22, Sukradi Chakma, 20, Sui Chandra Chakma, 25, Meher Kanti Chakma, 18, Nayan Jyoti Chakma, 25, Dhono Chakma, 20 and Sadapurro Chakma, 22.

The UPDF has long been demanding full autonomy of the CHT and clashed with the Parbatya

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PM sees off first batch of hajj pilgrims

UNB, Dhaka

Praying for safe journey and performance of hajj, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated the h.ajj flight operated by national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

On the first day, Biman carried 274 ballotee pilgrims out of total 25,000 ballotee and non-ballotee pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

Biman will operate 99 hajj flights, 29 for ballotee pilgrims and 70 for non-ballotees. The last flight with the pilgrims will fly out on February 5.

Speaking on the occasion at the VIP lounge of Zia International Airport yesterday afternoon, the prime minister apprised the pilgrims that their return flight by Biman has been reconfirmed to avoid any trouble.

She announced the decision to

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PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia talks to Hajj pilgrims after inaugurating the Biman Bangladesh Airlines-operated Hajj flight to Saudi Arabia at Zia International Airport yesterday.

Charges against 12 in Muhuri murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

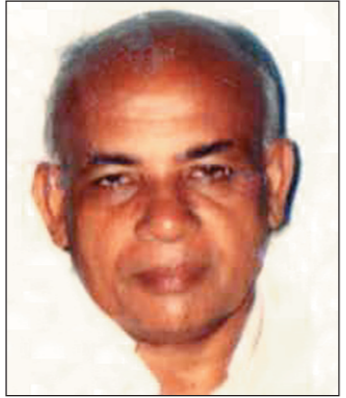
Charges against 12 accused in the sensational Gopal Krishna Muhuri murder case were framed by the Speedy Trial Tribunal here yesterday morning.

Judge Hasan Imam also fixed January 8 as the date for beginning of the hearing. All the 12 accused, eight of them Shibir men, had already been charge-sheeted.

Earlier, the tribunal rejected prayers of three of the accused -- Idris Miah, Zahirul Islam and Tofazzal Ahmed, all teachers of Nazirhat College -- for exemption from the proceedings of the case. The three teachers are on bail.

Seven of the 12 accused were present in the court. They are Shibir cadres Nasir alias Shibir Nasir, Baitya Alamgir, Chhoto Saiful and Taslim Uddin alias Montu -- all now in jail -- and the three teachers of Nazirhat College.

The remaining five accused are absconding and the tribunal issued



Gopal Krishna Muhuri

warrants for their arrest. They are Mohammad Shahjahan, a suspended teacher of Nazirhat College, and Shibir cadres Nasir alias Gitthu Nasir, Azam, Habib Khan and Mohiuddin alias Moinuddin.

Gopal Krishna Muhuri, principal of Nazirhat College, was shot dead

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Govt asked to explain Enam's detention in three weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to show cause in three weeks as to why detention of Reuters stringer Enamul Haq Chowdhury should not be declared illegal.

The division bench of Justice Hamidul Haq and Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury also directed the government to form a medical board for Enam and not to transfer him from the Dhaka Central Jail until disposal of the rule.

The authorities were also asked to let him meet his wife and lawyers twice a week.

While delivering its rule, the judges observed that torture on Enam violated his fundamental human rights.

Enam hogged the limelight when controversy arose over a comment of the home minister in a Reuters

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CEC firm on troops deployment stance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Syed yesterday reiterated his plea for army deployment in aid of the civil administration during the Union Parishad (UP) polls that begin later this month.

He urged the government to show its commitment to maintain law and order during the polls that will continue for about two months.

"I want that officials on election duty will be committed to their responsibilities," Syed told a group of reporters when his attention was drawn to the ongoing Operation Clean Heart by the joint forces that seemingly improved law and order across the country.

The CEC termed the present deployment of forces as temporary.

Despite the government's opposition to troops deployment, the CEC is still optimistic. He wants the army to be given "specific election duty" under the EC's jurisdiction.

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51 anti-Indian bases in Bangladesh, says Tripura CM

SAKYA SEN MITRA, Kolkata

Chief Minister of Tripura Manik Sarkar yesterday said his government has definite information that there were 51 bases of anti-India organisations in Bangladesh.

"It's the ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence of Pakistan) and the CIA which are funding these terrorists for their survival in Bangladesh,"

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Jan 5		5-25 pm
Jan 6	6-43 am	

Prayer Timings		
Jan 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-30	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-50	4-05
Maghrib	5-30	5-36
Esha	7-30	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Code of conduct for manpower agents

RAFIQ HASAN

To bring about discipline in manpower export and for the welfare of expatriate Bangladeshis, the government yesterday issued three separate rules including a code of conduct for the recruiting agents.

According to the new 12-point code of conduct, it is mandatory for an agent to make at least three hundred overseas employment in the first five years. Other wise the license of the agent would be cancelled and half of his security money confiscated and transferred to the wage earners welfare fund.

The rules also prohibited recruiting agents from taking any extra fee from immigrants other than the service charge fixed by the government. The service charges would be declared through gazette notifications from time to time. The charge, however, would not include transport costs.

Other charges, like that for

medical check up, passport and visa would also be declared separately through gazette notification.

The code of conduct has made the data bank system, where information regarding immigrants are kept, mandatory.

If information of any immigrant

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Hasina indisposed

UNB, Dhaka

A five-member medical board yesterday advised opposition leader Sheikh Hasina complete bed rest as she has been suffering from high fever for the last two weeks.

The board comprising Dr. Mahmud Hasan, Dr. Shaila Khatun, Dr. Pran Gopal, Dr. Mohammad Abdullah and Dr. Mohammad Rizvi conducted thorough check-up and

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