

Three to die, five given life for killing Sony



Sabequn Nahar Sony

SHAIKH NAZRUL ISLAM

A speedy trial tribunal yesterday sentenced three persons to death and five to life imprisonment for killing Sabequn Nahar Sony, a student of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

The convicts with death penalty are Mokammel Hayat Khan Muki, Mushfiq Uddin Tagor and Nurul Islam Sagar. Tagor is now in jail, while Muki and Sagar have been absconding since the death of Sony on the BUET campus on June 8, 2002.

The Speedy Trial Tribunal-1, SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Family happy with verdict, wants quick execution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of Sabequn Nahar Sony yesterday expressed their satisfaction over the verdict.

"This judgment is against crime," Sony's father Habibur Raman Bhuiyan told The Daily Star at the court premises immediately after the judgement.

He hoped the verdict would make students aware of wrong

politics so that no such incidents take place in educational institutions anymore.

"I wish no parents have to meet the same fate as ours," said Habibur in an emotion-choked voice.

Dilara Begum wishes no life comes to an end like her daughter's. "I'm happy with the verdict. But I want quick execution of the death pen-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

How Sony was killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was June 8, 2002. Sabequn Nahar Sony was on her way to the lone female hall of BUET. The 22-year-old was totally oblivious of the gun battle going on between the two rival groups of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal on the campus.

As soon as she reached the Central Shaheed Minar, a stray bullet came from nowhere to pierce through her abdomen. She was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

However, BUET atmosphere was tense when the JCD rival groups kept demonstrating a show of strength for several days over winning a tender worth Tk 87 lakh.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Jamaat, JP men held in Bogra ammo haul

ANWAR ALI, Bogra

Police yesterday arrested three persons, reportedly belonging to the Jamaat-e-Islami of Bangladesh (JIB) and the Jatiya Party (JP), in connection with the Bogra ammunition and explosives haul.

The arrested are Delwar Hossain - an activist of the local JIB and a cousin of Awami League (AL) leader Syed Akhlakur Rahman Pintu - and Azhar Hossain, a listed illegal arms trader and an activist of the JP. They were arrested from Malatinagar and Jogarpara areas and implicated in the four cases filed with Dhupchachia and Kahlalu police stations in this regard.

Shamim, a Shibir activist and also a cousin of Pintu, was initially

picked up for interrogation and later shown arrested under Section 54.

Police sources said they were arrested on the basis of Pintu's wife Anwara Khanam Bithi's statement.

Police sought seven days' remand for Anwara Khanam Bithi and three others who were arrested just after the incident and the magistrate fixed today (Monday) for hearing on the petition.

Police had recovered 62,112 rounds of Chinese rifle bullets and 120kg explosives from an abandoned truck and precincts of Pintu's house at Jogarpara village, Kahlalu Police Station in Bogra on Friday night.

On Saturday night, four separate cases were filed with Dhupchachia and Kahlalu police stations under

the Arms Act and the Explosives Act, accusing Pintu, his wife Bithi and five other yet unidentified persons.

Bithi was arrested Saturday night while Pintu and the five others managed to escape arrest. Police are looking for them.

Four cases were filed as two police stations were involved in the operation and two types of materials were recovered, SP of Bogra said.

Meanwhile, local BNP and AL leaders blamed each other for the incident, while investigators hinted at the haul having no political links. The local BNP-Jamaat alliance called a meeting at Kahlalu Bottala to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Police take convicts to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after a speedy trial tribunal handed down its verdict on the killing of Sabequn Nahar Sony, a BUET student. Sony's family members, right, offer prayers at Sony's memorial on the BUET campus after announcement of the judgement.



PHOTO: STAR

JS stalemate unlikely to end soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the deputy speaker and the main opposition party trading letters with no immediate dialogue in sight, the parliamentary standoff is unlikely to be resolved soon.

On June 28, Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui invited the opposition to a tripartite dialogue involving the government and himself to resolve the crisis of the Awami League's (AL) indefinite boycott of the Jatiya Sangsad.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid wrote back to Akhtar yesterday afternoon urging him to take an effective initiative to im-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Govt tries to hide facts on Bogra gunrunners: Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the prime minister, home minister and state minister knew it well who were behind trading in the huge ammunition and explosives seized in Bogra.

"People know who control Bogra and who could be behind the ammunition worth crores of taka," she told a news conference at her Dhanmondi office where she also spoke on the new budget with suggestions to cut taxes on essen-

tials.

Referring to the claim that a union AL leader is involved with the illegal arms, Hasina, also AL president, alleged that the prime minister, home minister, inspector general of police and officer-in-charge were coming up with different versions only to suppress the truth.

"The home minister can say who brought the ammunition to Bogra and who are its owners," she said. It has become a practice of this government to shift blame onto the AL

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Siamese twin dies

BSS, Dhaka

Hossain, the younger of the Siamese twins, died of a heart attack at Paediatric and Neonatal Hospital Saturday night at the age of two months and 15 days, said an Islamic Bank press release yesterday.

Conjoined at the abdomen, the twins had been separated through a June 24 operation at the Islami Bank Hospital.

Condition of Hasan, the elder of the twins, is doing well, said the press release.

Hossain's namaz-e-janaza was held yesterday at the Railway Colony Mosque here.

Later, Hossain was buried at Shahjahanpur graveyard, the press release said.

Ex-chief of duty drawback body sued for graft

4 others also implicated in the alleged vice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) yesterday filed three cases against four officials, including a former director general of the Duty Exemption and Drawback Department, for taking bribes in refunding duty to a company.

As per the case, the South China

Bleaching and Dyeing Factory Ltd. (SCBDFL) bribed the department with Tk 6.47 lakh to obtain a duty rebate of Tk 38.57 lakh, using fake Proceed Realisation Certificate (PRC). They doctored the documents to show that the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) issued the three PRCs.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

The Daily Star Editor's comments on SQ Chy's tirades

Without directly naming The Daily Star or its editor, but clearly indicating towards whom his comments were directed, Mr. Salauddin Quader Chowdhury launched a characteristic, shameful, and virulent personal attack against me on the floor of the parliament last Thursday (26 June 2003) where ordinary citizens like me have no chance to a Right of Reply. His manner of speaking, his choice of words and the things he accused me of reflected his own taste, life-style and activities and gave us a glimpse of the world he belongs to.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Budget to be passed today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed budget for fiscal 2003-2004 will be passed in the Jatiya Sangsad today.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman placed the around Tk 52,000 crore budget in parliament on June 12.

Finance ministry sources said some tax proposals relating to the stock market and essential commodities may be withdrawn.

The government has already declared withdrawal of the proposal to reduce tax on hard drinks.

The finance minister may not be able present in the House during the passage of the budget due to his illness.

9 given life for Ambia murder in Gopalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Nine persons were awarded life imprisonment yesterday in the sensational Ambia murder case.

They are Samad Shaikh, Azizur Shaikh, Sorwar Shaikh, Nantu Shaikh, Ahad Shaikh, Dhanu Shaikh, Masud Shaikh, Shakhawat Shaikh and Balam Shaikh.

District Additional and Sessions Judge Mohammad Obaidus Sobhan handed down the verdict in a jam-packed courtroom.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



People wade through floodwaters cascading down Gahira-Fatikchhari (Rauzan) Road yesterday. Many were forced to head for higher ground, as some rivers burst their banks due to heavy rains and run-off from hills.

PHOTO: STAR

Flood situation worsens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The flood situation in different parts of the country has deteriorated further.

Five people in Chittagong and two in Rangamati were reportedly washed away by flood water yesterday.

Landslide and floods killed at least 70 people over the last two weeks, most of the deaths being in these two southern districts.

In the north, several thousand people have been forced to leave their homes in search of safer

places while thousands of others remained marooned.

The officials at the Flood Forecasting Centre warned that the situation might worsen within a week as the Indian state of Assam has experienced a second spell of floods that might lead to further swelling of rivers in Bangladesh.

Flood-forecasting officials said, due to heavy and continuous downpours in the northern districts, flash floods may occur in the Meghna basin, especially in the districts of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj and Netrakona and the

overall situation may deteriorate further. The flood situation in the South Eastern Hill basin is likely to remain unchanged, they added.

Aus paddy on thousands of hectares of land has been washed away in the affected districts.

The Brahmaputra-Jamuna registered further rise in water level at all points. The Ganges-Padma also registered rise at all points. Almost all points of the other rivers in these two basins registered rise. The rivers in the Meghna and the South Eastern Hill basins recorded

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4