



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIII No. 162

DHAKA TUESDAY JULY 1, 2003

TO People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

ASHAR 17, 1410 BS

RABI-US-SANI 29, 1424 HJRI

16 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: TK 10.00

3 to die, one given life for killing Bushra

Mother unhappy with verdict on Bushra killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mother of slain student Rushdania Islam Bushra yesterday expressed her dissatisfaction over the verdict of her daughter.

"All the accused had hands in killing my daughter but some of them escaped," Laila Islam, mother of Bushra said at her Hazipara residence. She said she heard the verdict but it fell short of her expectation. She wished all the accused got capital punishment.

"My family turned into a mess following Bushra's killing," Laila Islam said.

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Chapter closed for the night and for good

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The night of July 1, 2000 and a life came to an end after rape. But the horrible truth did not come to light until 6:00 next morning. Her mother repeatedly knocked on the door of her bedroom but she did not answer.

Helpless and desperate, Laila Islam called in police and found her daughter Rushdania Islam Bushra.

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal in Dhaka yesterday sentenced three persons to death and one to life imprisonment in its verdict on the killing of Rushdania Islam Bushra, a college student.

The convicts with death sentence are M Abdul Kader, former relief and social welfare secretary of the Awami League city unit, Sheikh Shawkat Ahmed Ruhul and Sheikh Kabir Ahmed. Kabir has been absconding since the 18-year-old

marketing student of City College was raped and killed in Hazipara on June 1, 2000.

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-3, Dhaka also fined the death penalty convicts Tk1 lakh each.

The court handed down life imprisonment to Runu Kader, wife of death-penalty convict Kader, who will have to serve two years more in failure to pay Tk1 lakh in fines.

Two others of the six accused

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Rushdania Islam Bushra



Police take death-penalty convicts M Abdul Kader, left, and Sheikh Shawkat Ahmed Ruhul, right, to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after a tribunal announced its verdict on the killing of Rushdania Islam Bushra, a college student.

Anti-outlaw drive within week

ZAYADUL AHSAN

Law enforcers, aided by the paramilitary force, are going to crack down on underground political parties and outlaws in the southwestern region within a week.

The drive will cover Jhenidah, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jessore, Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat and adjacent districts that virtually bristle with outlaws and see frequent bloodshed, a senior police official said.

Locals allege that the groups indulge in robbery, killing, extortion, rape and other criminal activities in the name of erasing their enemies.

"All regular defensive measures and combing operations by police have miserably failed to bring the situation under control," he said.

"The government has decided

the more intense and serious move looking back on past drives."

About 15,000 additional police, ansar and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel will be sent to the region from relatively peaceful areas, he added.

Under the drive, area-wise raids will be conducted amid a virtual curfew to maximise the chances of outlaws' arrest.

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Traffic sergeants face contempt of court charges for misbehaving with HC judge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three traffic policemen are facing charges of contempt of court for misbehaving with a High Court judge and insulting the dignity of the Supreme Court during an incident at Farmgate in the city.

Following a suo moto rule issued on June 26 by Judge AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury, five traffic police officers appeared before the court yesterday begging for clemency but only officers Obaidul Huq

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

3 customs men, garment factory owner sued for tax evasion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) yesterday filed a case against three customs officials and a garment factory owner for dodging Tk 7.92 crore in tax.

BAC said Fuji Knit and Fashion Wear Ltd of Savar, owned by Aminul Islam, received special bonded warehouse licence in 1995 allowing it to import exportable garment raw material through back-to-back

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Four including Jubo Dal leader killed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were killed in as many incidents of violence in the city yesterday and a Jubo Dal leader was gunned down Sunday night, police said.

They said a top criminal was killed in Juran, a driver was thrown to his death from a running minibus hijacked from Mirpur and a young tailor shot dead in Mohammadpur.

Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal leader Abdul Alim alias Kulim was shot dead in Banglabazar area on Sunday night.

Police said three young men, including Ujjal Roy, called 31-year-old Kulim out of his home in Banglabazar.

They took him to Ananda Mohan Das lane and sprayed him with bullets at about 11:30pm. He died instantly taking a hail of bullets in

his chest and abdomen.

Police arrested two local youths Kabir and Shahin yesterday morning on suspicion. Ujjal has been absconding.

Four youths pumped bullets into 35-year-old Monjurul Hossain alias Bonda, whose name figures on the criminals' list of Shyampur police, near West Juran graveyard at 9:00am yesterday.

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CJ recommends job confirmation of 9 addl judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice KM Hasan has recommended confirmation of nine additional judges, law ministry sources said yesterday.

President Iajuddin Ahmed will now take a decision regarding the judges in consultation with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia by tomorrow.

As an age-old convention, the chief justice makes recommendations based on the performance of additional judges to absorb them in service permanently.

The nine judges took oath for a two-year term each on July 3, 2001.

A group of policymakers wants to confirm the service of eight of them to overcome the public impression that the judiciary is increasingly becoming a subject of political intervention, according to ruling BNP sources.

But another group is against the confirmation of at least six of the judges who previously were lawyers on grounds that they were political appointees of the Awami League government. Since the other three came from the judicial cadre, they may be retained, the faction views.

The Awami League appointed 40 additional judges, nine of whom

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PM's speech ruse to protect real terrorists: AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) yesterday sharply reacted to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's remarks that labelled the party as al-Qaeda, saying it was a ruse to protect the real criminals.

Briefing newsmen at the Sangsad Bhaban last night, Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid said: "We strongly protest and condemn such remarks by the prime minister."

Shahid alleged that the remarks were made with the intention to protect the real al-Qaeda and Taliban. Shahid reminded the prime minister that the AL had a half-century old track-record of upholding non-communal and secular ethos.

In her budget speech, Khaleda termed the AL as 'al-Qaeda, Taliban, terrorists and killers'.

"She (AL President Sheikh Hasina) is making statements

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Salt gets relief, sugar not much

JS passes budget; income tax on professionals reduced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The budget proposal to increase supplementary duty on salt has been withdrawn while that on sugar scaled down.

The proposal to reduce duty on hard drinks has also been withdrawn.

The parliament yesterday passed

the budget for fiscal 2003-2004, which will be effective from today.

In placing the proposed budget in parliament on June 12, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman intended to increase duty on salt to 75 per cent from 60 per cent and on sugar to 40 per cent from 20 per cent.

But in passing the budget yesterday in parliament, he said the duty

on salt will not increase and that on sugar will be 30 per cent.

Five more changes have been brought to the budget proposals.

A move making it mandatory for a person contesting the union parishad polls to submit tax return has been withdrawn.

Another proposal on fixing

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PHOTO: BIC

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at a general discussion on the 2003-04 budget the Jatiya Sangsad passed yesterday.

Khaleda tags AL as al-Qaeda, Taliban, terrorist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday launched a scathing attack on the main opposition Awami League (AL) in parliament, labelling it as 'al-Qaeda, Taliban, terrorist and

killer'.

She also said the AL is out to create chaos and indiscipline and mislead the world about Bangladesh.

"She (AL President Sheikh

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Saifur talks of new law to force tax disclosure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that a fiscal responsibility act would be passed to enforce disclosure of the amount of taxes paid by businessmen and professionals.

Referring to large-scale tax evasion by them, he said they name mama shashuri, khala shashuri (mothers-in-law) as the sources of their wealth.

The minister made the comments in his closing speech on the proposed budget for the fiscal 2003-2004 in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Referring to the amendment to self-assessment system of income tax, he said many, especially lawyers, criticised the proposal.

He said the proposal was made to bring an end to the self-assessment system abused widely by tax-evaders.

"Many businessmen and professionals took to their advantage the system to submit puffing taxes although they earn crores of taka."

He said he examined 500 files of people who paid taxes under the self-assessment system and found that many of them, who own property of Tk 10-13 crore, paid only Tk 10,000 or 12,000 in taxes.

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IDA to provide \$236m credit

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will get \$236.12 million, equivalent to Tk 1,369.50 crore, as credit from the International Development Association (IDA) for implementing three projects.

Separate agreements in this regard were signed here yesterday between the government and the IDA, the soft loan window of the World Bank.

An official handout said ERD (Economic Relations Division) Secretary Mirza Tasadduq Hossain Beg and outgoing World Bank Country Director Frederick T Templesigned the agreements.

Under one agreement, the IDA

will provide a credit of \$190 million, equivalent to Tk 1,102 crore, for Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP) in Bangladesh.

The credit carries a service charge of three-fourths of one per cent a year repayable in 40 years including a 10-year grace.

The Local Government Engineering Department would execute the project over a period of five years commencing next September.

The objectives of the project are to provide rural communities with improved access to social services and economic opportunity and enhance the capacity of relevant

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