

BNP leader Nurul Islam murder case Hearing resumes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hearing in the sensational Laxmipur BNP leader Advocate Nurul Islam murder case resumed here with the deposition of two more prosecution witnesses before the Judge of the Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal, Chittagong M Hasan Imam yesterday.

Laxmipur District Public Prosecutor (PP) and then general secretary of Laxmipur Bar Manirul Islam Howlader completed his unfinished statement before the court.

The tribunal judge then heard another witness Fariduddin, a shopkeeper at Mandaripur.

The hearing will continue today.

Meanwhile, Kotwali thana police arrested one youth from the city's Reazuddin Bazar area at around 2.30pm yesterday for making an attempt to kidnap one of the witnesses from the court premises.

The youth identified as Abdul Awal alias Bapon, 25, was reportedly a member of Taher Bahini of

Laxmipur, police said.

Sources said one PW Abul Kalam Azad, who was declared 'hostile' by the judge for giving irrelevant accounts and backtracking from what he confessed earlier to police under 164, was recalled by the court yesterday.

As Azad appeared on the court premises at Jubilee Road area at around 2.15pm, Awal approached and threatened him not to give any statement against his leader Abu Taher.

At one stage, Awal also tried to abduct Azad who managed to slip away and went straight to the court.

After knowing the incident, the court ordered police to nab Awal.

A gang of armed miscreants picked up Advocate Nurul Islam from his residential chamber in Laxmipur at midnight on September 18, 2000.

His mutilated body was recovered later on from the river Meghna.



PHOTO: STAR

Professor Kabir Chowdhury gives away the Anannya Literary Award-2003 to litterateur Razia Khan at a ceremony at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday. On the left is Taslima Hossain, editor and publisher of the Anannya, a fortnightly magazine for women.

Fresh drive against polybags soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to involve cross-section of people including members of the civil society and NGOs to gear up the environment movement.

They said the government alone cannot ensure a sustainable environment in a poor country like Bangladesh.

The discussion was organised by the environment and forest ministry to mark the completion of two years' of alliance government at the Osmani Memorial Hall.

An environment fair was also organised on this occasion.

Speaking as chief guest, Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj said drive against the polythene shopping bag will be resumed soon and steps will be taken against the producers, distributors and users as well.

"Success in banning the polythene shopping bag cannot be nullified due to some dishonest traders and producers," he added.

The minister said the government has made mandatory for the brick kilns to use 120-foot long chimney from the next year.

He also claimed the success of his ministry in tree plantation, stopping hill cutting, introducing the eco-tourism, relocating the tannery

industry from Hazaribagh, and conserving bio-diversity at St Martin island.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury said their present and future programmes would help raise public awareness about environment.

Sabihuddin Ahmed, secretary of the ministry, said they had taken an initiative to include the environment in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

Moniruzzaman Miah, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, urged the government to give the environment priority in its planning process.

20 stalls have been put up in the fair that ends today.

DHAKA TODAY

German film show

Under a retrospective of films produced by 'X-Filme' Creative Pool, Germany, Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen three films titled 'Gigantic' (1999) by Sebastian Schipper, 'The Princess and the Warrior' (2000) and 'Heaven' (2002) by Tom Tykwer. Venue: Goethe Institut, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm, 5.15pm and 7.30pm.

Film show

The Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'The Godfather Part-3'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Awards presentation ceremony

Annual business awards presentation ceremony of American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh will be held with US Ambassador Harry K Thomas as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 12.30pm.

Disabled discussion

On the occasion of 'World white cane safety day', National Forum of Organisations working with the Disabled will hold a discussion with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid as chief guest. Venue: 4/A, Eskaton Garden. Time: 4.00pm.

Seminar

The inaugural session of an

international seminar on 'Education in a global society', organised by Independent University, Bangladesh will be held with Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk as chief guest. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 10.00 am.

Session

A special session on 'Asia Pacific Network Information Centre and Role of ICT in Bangladesh' will be held with Science and Information and Communication Technology Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Conference room of BIDS, Sher-e-Banglanagar. Time: 10.00am.

Plastic fair

The inaugural ceremony of a four-day international plastic fair will be held with Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 11.00am.

Rotary meeting

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhanmondi Dhaka will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Ramna. Time: 5.30pm.

Dance programme

Dhrupad Kalakendra organises its annual dance programme and discussion with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Shaheed Zia auditorium of National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 7.00pm.

Morshed, Malaysian FM talk restructuring of OIC

BSS, PUTRAJAYA, Kuala Lumpur

Foreign ministers of Bangladesh and Malaysia yesterday discussed how the two countries could work together for restructuring the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Foreign Secretary Shamsheer M. Chowdhury told the news agency after the talks at the convention centre.

He said Bangladesh Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan told his Malaysian counterpart Syed Hamid Albar that Bangladesh was looking forward to Malaysia's leadership, particularly the role of its Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohammad.

Hamid expressed his country's deep appreciation for the very proactive role Bangladesh has been

playing in the OIC since its joining the group 30 years ago, the foreign secretary said.

The Malaysian foreign minister said his country also expects Bangladesh to continue to play an active role in future. The two foreign ministers also agreed that Bangladesh and Malaysia would work together through consultation on all issues relating to the OIC including that of the next Secretariat, Shamsheer Mobin added.

During the discussion bilateral issues of common interest also figured prominently. Earlier, Morshed had a meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal. The Saudi Foreign Minister praised the role of Bangladesh in

the OIC and also in other international fora specially in the changed global political scenario.

The Saudi foreign minister reiterated his government's support for Bangladesh's candidature for the post of OIC secretary general.

Morshed seized the opportunity to hold talks with his Moroccan counterpart. The Moroccan foreign minister reiterated his government's support for Bangladesh's candidature for the next OIC secretary general.

Similar assurances, the foreign secretary said, have also been given by the foreign ministers of Bahrain, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and Senegal.

JSD forms human chain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) yesterday formed a human chain along the highway from Gobindaganj of Gaibandha to Dinajpur protesting the 'misrule' of the alliance government.

On the second day of its eight-day human chain programmes at different districts of the country, the JSD observed the programme.

Thousands of people including JSD workers took part in the programme, said a party press release.

Speaking on the occasion, JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu called for a strong movement to oust the government.

Reform of PSC demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Chhatra Dhara, a left-leaning student organisation at Dhaka University, took out a procession carrying a symbolic coffin of Public Service Commission (PSC) yesterday demanding punishment to those responsible for leakage of question papers of different examinations under the PSC.

Wearing white caps, the demonstrators paraded through the campus and held a rally to protest the inability of the PSC to check the leakage of question papers.

At the rally, they placed a four-

point demand including making public all the reports of the probe committees and restructuring the PSC to ensure its accountability and fairness.

The student leaders also demanded that the PSC be made free from corruption and political influence.

Presided over by Dhara President Mahfuz Akram, the rally was addressed by its General Secretary Monzur Ahmed, Moudud Ahmed Khan, Humayan Kabir and Rubel Ahmed.



PHOTO: STAR

The Bangladesh Khetmajur Samity stages a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding allocation of khas land to the genuine farm labourers.

