

Jail Killing Case resumes after 8 months

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Jail Killing Case resumed yesterday after an eight-month stay, with the prosecution submitting a petition seeking further adjournment of the hearing for four weeks.

The High Court stayed all proceedings of the case on January 26 following a petition filed by the prosecution for holding the trial in the High Court instead of the lower court.

The petition to hold the trial in the High Court was rejected by the court on August 25. The prosecution submitted the petition for adjournment on the grounds that they wished to file an appeal with the Supreme Court against the rejection order of August 25.

However, the court rejected the petition for adjournment after the hearing and ordered the prosecution to proceed with the case with the three prosecution witnesses who had appeared before the court.

The court also removed 12 state defence lawyers as they were absent from the court yesterday and appointed two new state defense lawyers to conduct the case in their place.

Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Mahmud Hasan conducted the case on behalf of the prosecution, while advocates

Nazrul Islam, Abdul Majid Munshi and Arsalul Haq defended the accused.

The court fixed October 27 for the next hearing of the case.

Yesterday's hearing did not begin on time as the entrance gate of the special court adjacent to Dhaka Central Jail was under lock and key.

The presiding judge, Mohammad Motiur Rahman, along with the public prosecutors went to the court at 10:15am, but found the gate closed. After waiting for about 15 minutes, the judge ordered the lock to be broken open with the help of policemen.

The judge finally took his seat at 10:55am, 25 minutes after the scheduled time.

National leaders Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, AHM Quamruzzaman and M Mansur Ali were killed inside Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

Kazi Abdul Awal, the then deputy inspector general (prisons), filed a case with Lalbagh Police Station the following day.

Accused KM Obaidur Rahman MP, Nurul Islam Manzoor, Shah Moazzam Hossain and Maj (ret'd) Khairuzzaman are now free on bail, while Taheruddin Thakur, Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Faruk Rahman, Lt Col (ret'd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid

Khan and Maj (ret'd) Bazlul Huda are in custody.

Accused Shariful Haq Dalim and 11 others have been absconding since the investigation into the case began.

'Criminal' shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified assailants gunned down an alleged criminal of Kafrul area at GMG intersection on Gulshan Link Road in Tejgaon last night.

Shahin Alam Munna, who had 20 criminal cases against him, was waiting for someone with a motorcycle, locals said.

Three young men appeared in a private car and shot him point blank. The killers drove away when they were sure of his death, locals added.

On information, Tejgaon police recovered the body. They seized a

mobile phone from the spot believed to be the victim's.

"Shahin was a notorious extortionist of Kafrul area," said Officer In-charge of Tejgaon Police Station Ruhul Amin. But he could not say anything specific of the incident.

In another incident, extortionists shot a hotelier as he refused to pay toll.

A gang of five shot Hossain Ali Saju, 35, in the chest and right leg near his house at Banshbari in Mohammadpur at around 6:00pm.

Critically injured, Saju is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.



