

**TRADER MURDER
One to die,
3 others get
31 years' RI**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to death and three others to 31 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for killing Borhan Uddin, a businessman of Shyampur area in the city in March in 2000.

The convict with death is Mohammad Mohsin while Alamgir, Nurul Islam and Moktar Hossain were given 31 years' RI for the killing.

The court also acquitted Azahar, Alam alias Montu and Swapan Chandra Mondol as the charges brought against them were not proved.

Judge Mohammad Nazrul Islam of the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court handed down the sentence at a packed courtroom.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 10 prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, over a previous enmity a group of miscreants led by Alamgir took Borhan and his brother Erfan Uddin forcefully to a place at South Matuail Medical Road in the Shyampur area at about 3:00pm on March 12, 2000. One of the miscreants Mohsin shot Borhan dead while his accomplices beat his brother Erfan Uddin mercilessly.

Later, victim's elder brother Khabir Hossain filed a murder case with Shyampur Police Station against Alamgir and five others.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Shahidul Islam Sardar appeared for the state while advocates Mizanur Rahman and Abed Raza defended the accused.



Traffic snarls have become commonplace at Jatrabari intersection in the city due to lack of proper traffic management. This photograph was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Time extended

The 9th solo exhibition of artist Nazia Andaleeb Pream titled 'United' has been extended by seven days, says a press release.

The exhibition will now remain open for visitors till May 25.

Canadian High Commissioner Barbara Richardson inaugurated the exhibition at Art & Soul Gallery in Gulshan on May 5.

ELECTORAL REFORMS

AL to participate in polls if demand met

Hasina tells Italian ambassador

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her party will take part in the next national election only after the implementation of proposals for reforms in the caretaker government system and the Election Commission.

"We haven't said we'll not participate in the upcoming national elections... we'll surely take part in the election after our demand for electoral reforms is met," she was quoted as saying to Italian Ambassador Dr Pietro Ballero who called on the opposition leader at her Sudha Sadan residence.

Emerging from an hour-long meeting, Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, "Lack of interest on the part of the alliance government bears the testimony that they are not at all sincere in resolving the current crisis through talks with the Awami League-led 14-party combine."

"The alliance government knows very well they won't come to power again through popular mandate if free, fair and credible polls are arranged in the country... that's why they are preparing a blueprint to rig the national election," he said.

The latest addition to their conspir-

acy is the new draft voter list, he alleged.

Saber also quoted Hasina as expressing her concern about the new draft voter list during the talks with the Italian envoy. The Italian ambassador wanted to know from the AL side about its stand on the forthcoming elections, he said.

Referring to foreign observers in the

next national polls, Saber said it will not be appropriate for the foreign observers to oversee the elections prior to the electoral reforms.

AL leaders Kazi Zafarullah MP, Syed Abul Hossain MP, Dr Hasan Mahmud and Mohammad Ziauddin were present in the meeting.

Int'l probe into all political killings demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from all walks of life yesterday demanded international investigation into all political killings including that of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria.

They also demanded that all criminals along with their masterminds must be brought to justice.

The call was made from a human chain formed under the banner of 'Blue for Peace' in front of Eden College University in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, President of Nagorik Committee Prof A A M S Arefin Siddique said they are making protest against the

'culture of impunity' that the government indulged in during its regime.

Reza Kibria, son of Shah AMS Kibria, said the government is disinterested in the proper investigation into all political killings.

Asma Kibria, wife of the former finance minister, said 'Blue for Peace' movement will continue until justice is established.

As part of its countrywide consciousness-raising programme against oppression and killing, similar human chain will be formed in Mymensingh town next month.

8 Jubo Sangram Parishad leaders get bail

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to eight leaders of Jubo Sangram Parishad, including Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanak and its General Secretary Mirza Azam MP, in an arson attack case filed by the government.

After hearing a bail petition filed by the accused, a division bench of the High Court comprising Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and

Justice Ashfaque Islam also issued a rule upon the government to show cause within two weeks as to why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail in this case.

The bail order will continue for three months or till submission of the police report of the case.

The petitioners yesterday appeared in persons before the High Court bench for bail.

Paltan police filed a case against eight leaders on charge of obstructing

the police in discharging their duties during a siege programme to the PDB office at Motijheel demanding electricity on May 9.

Advocate Motaher Hossain Saju assisted by Advocate ZI Khan Panna, Advocate Salina Akhter Chowdhury, Advocate Saifur Rahman Khan and Mamunur Rashid and Advocate Sagir Anwar moved for the petitioners before the court, while Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Nihalesh Dutt stood for the state.



PHOTO: STAR

Progotishil Chhatra Jote stages a demonstration at DU yesterday demanding punishment to the police officer responsible for the killing of a student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.