

SHAFIQL MURDER

6 JCD men to die, 11 get life

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced six Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and activists to death and 11 others to life in jail for killing Shafiqul Islam, also a JCD leader of Rugganj thana unit in Narayanganj in November last year.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 handed down the sentence in presence of the nine convicts while ten others were tried in absentia.

The convicts with death are Mohammad Ali, Jewel alias Zahidul Haq, Tipu, Shahin, Abul Bashar alias Badsha and Akhter Hossain alias Akhter.

Of them, Badsha and Akhter were present in the court during the delivery of the judgement while four others were tried in absentia.

The lifers, also JCD leaders and activists, are Syed Hossain, Abdur Rob alias Rouf, Ayub Hossain, Aslam Bhuiyan, Akhter Hossain alias Esdu, Mukul alias Makbul Hossain, Mobarak Hossain, Kamal, Jalil Miah, Zahirul Islam and Jahangir.

Of them, Syed Hossain, Rouf, Ayub, Aslam, Esdu and Mukul were present in the court while five others are absconding.

The court acquitted Nur Mohammad and Abdul Hye as the charges brought against them were not proved.

The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender and the convicts with death can appeal to the High Court against the verdict within 30 days from the day of receipt of the judgement copy, the judge said.

Victim's father Mafizuddin Bhuiyan, mother Faizu Akhter and his wife Shahnaz Begum were present at the court and broke down in tears hearing the verdict. They also expressed their satisfaction over the verdict on the murder.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 37 prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, over previous enmity a group of JCD leaders and activists shot Shafiqul Islam, vice-president of Rugganj thana JCD, dead at about 9:30pm on November 8 last year as he came out of his party office at Bhulta under Rugganj upazila in Narayanganj.

Later, his father filed a murder case against 19 people with Rugganj Police Station the following day.

Victim's father mentioned in the FIR that marriage of his only son was taken place on a helicopter.

PM opens Swadhinata Stambha

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugurated and laid foundation stones of four establishments, including the Swadhinata Stambha, in the capital yesterday.

She unveiled the plaque of Swadhinata Stambha or independence memorial at Suhrawardy Udyan after laying the foundation stone of a multistoried BTMA Bhaban (Bangladesh Textile Mills Association building) at Moghbazar.

The PM also opened the newly built building of the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh and unveiled the plaque of the foundation stone of Bangladesh Government Employees Welfare Board Bhaban near Dainik Bangla crossing in Motijheel.

Textiles and Jute Minister Shajahan Siraj, Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas and State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Prof Rezaul Karim were present at the inaugural functions.

CDA HOUSING SCHEME 430 get plots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) yesterday held the lottery of the applicants for the plots developed under the second phase of Kalpaloke Residential Area Development Project.

The authority declared 430 winners of plots out of 1924 applicants. The applicants had to deposit Tk 5 lakh as security money to apply for the plots.

The plots were given to the applicants, divided into ten categories, through an open lottery held at the CDA auditorium in presence of the applicants, CDA officials and journalists to ensure transparency, impartiality and accountability of the process.

In the lottery, 20 applicants won plots out of 30 in the non-government schoolteachers category and 10 applicants out of 55 won plots under non-government college and university teachers category, under the government, local authorities and autonomous agencies category 20 out of 32 applicants won, under lawyers category 20 out of 43, under businessmen and industrialists category 150 out of 853, under expatriates category 100 out of 336 applicants, under non-government bank and insurance category 60 out of 211, under non-government doctors and engineers category 20 out of 82, under journalists and intellectuals category all 21 out of the 21 and under miscellaneous category 20 out of 261 applicants won the plots.

The plot allotment under the second phase of the housing project was highly appreciated since the first phase plots handed out on March 22 this year took more than eight and a half years after the project was initiated in June 1997.

CDA Chairman Shah Mohammad Akhteruddin was present as the chief guest at the lottery where Additional Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Amir Hossain, Chittagong Port Authority Chief Engineer Safayet Hossain, CDA Board Member and BNP leader MA Sabur, CDA Board Member and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Afsaruddin Ahmed and Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian were also present.

He mentioned that the two brothers along with their accomplices killed the victim and dumped the body into a drain at Dinanath Sen Road near Wasa pump in Sutrapur on November 5, 2001. So, they need to be quizzed to find out the vital clues to the killing and the whereabouts of their accomplices, the IO added.

Defence lawyer Advocate Lutfar Rahman submitted a petition seeking cancellation of the remand prayer. He argued that his clients were not involved in the killing. Moreover, the murder took place five years back and five people were arrested in this regard. Later these five were released on bail. So, there was no room for placing them on remand, the lawyer added.

After listening to both parties, Metropolitan Magistrate Mamun Al Rashid placed Mufti Hannan and Mahibullah on a four-day remand.

Earlier on September 10, Hannan was shown arrested in the Ramna

Hasan urged not to become CG chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) yesterday called on Justice KM Hasan not to become the chief adviser of the next caretaker government (CG).

In a joint statement, Duta President Prof Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan and General Secretary Prof Akhtaruzzaman said by refusing to take the responsibility of caretaker government, Justice Hasan can prove that he was really a non-partisan and neutral person.



With Eid drawing nearer, people through the makeshift shops on footpaths for shopping at the eleventh hour. The picture was taken from Bangabazar yesterday.

NEGLIGENCE OF DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Banned drugs available in markets

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Banned drugs prevail in the market due to negligence of the directorate of drug administration (DDA).

Many drugs, which were forbidden to take for their harmful effects, were not withdrawn from the market owing to its indifference to them.

It has been observed that the drug administration does not bother to ask the manufacturers to withdraw all the samples of the drugs which have been banned for their harmful effects on patients.

For example, Rofecoxib and Valdecocix tablets used for muscletail pain were banned in September 2005 for their adverse effects on cardiovascular system.

But these are still sold in the market under different names like Vega, Roxib, Rexox and Rox-b. Besides, antipyretic drug Nimesulide is still sold in the market under the name of Nimo and Nice which was withdrawn for Edema and Hypothermia effects in 2003.

Cisapride, an antiemetic drug, is also available in the market under the name of Cisarid though it was banned for cardiac dysrhythmia in 2002.

Different brands of Nimesulide are being sold in the wholesale markets from Tk 3.50 to Tk 5.0 per strip while drugs of Rofecoxib group is sold at Tk 6.40 to Tk 6.80.

When contacted, President of Bangladesh Association for Pharmaceutical Industries Shafuzzaman said they have withdrawn the samples of Rofecoxib from the market.

"So Rofecoxib which is still found in the market is perhaps counterfeit as the import of its raw materials is totally banned," he added.

Normally the manufacturing company withdraws the drug from the market at their own initiatives, Shafuzzaman said, adding that if any banned drug is found in the market the association has nothing to do in this regard.

Only the drug administration directorate can take action in this respect, he added.

"Nimo and Nice were restricted for Dengue fever as a side effect was found a few days ago. The drug control committee decided to keep the drug under observation and import of its raw material was prohibited. But as it was not taken to the Dhaka City Corporation as an agenda, raw materials were imported under special consideration," Shafuzzaman said.

"While the import is prohibited and lots of safe and effective antipyretic drugs are available in the market, what is the rationality of importing those harmful raw materials under special consideration? questioned Dr Mohammad Sayedur Rahman,

associate professor of pharmacology department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

The public is forced to take spurious drugs due to their availability in the market and prescribed by the doctors, he lamented.

It is not possible for the drug administration to monitor over one lakh pharmacies and 850 pharmaceutical companies with only 37 drug supers across the country, said DA Director Habibur Rahman.

"Infrastructure of the drug administration remains same as it was in 1976 when the drug market was of Tk 102 crore. But it has now increased to Tk 5000 crore," he said, adding that there was no initiative in last 15 years to upgrade the drug administration despite repeated request to the authorities concerned.

The drug administration can only file case with drug court if it finds any banned drug, he said, adding that nowadays it has been realising fine through mobile courts and during the last six months it had realised more than Tk 8 lakh in fine.

Habibur Rahman said the cell for monitoring adverse drug reaction (ADR) cannot not work properly for lack of manpower and logistics support.

It is difficult to search out the banned drugs by the drug administration from the market as the sellers don't sell them openly, said Tofayel

Ahmed, member of the technical committee of drug administration.

He however said the drug administration also does not disseminate information about the status change of the drugs timely allowing the doctors to prescribe the drugs without any precaution and adding sufferings to patients.

"As the drug status changes frequently regarding their safety and uses, it needs dissemination of information to around 20 thousand practising doctors in the country. Otherwise, the doctors would prescribe the drugs without any precaution leading to huge side effects to patients," he said, adding that it is not possible for the doctors to know the changed status of around 1100 drugs under 15000 names.

Habibur Rahman claimed that the duty of drug administration is just to inform the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and the ministry in this regard.

Similarly, whenever they receive any information from Food Drug Administration or World Health Organisation, they disseminate it.



Awami League led 14-party opposition combine stages a demonstration at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday demanding reforms in caretaker government system and Election Commission.

Elect non-partisan person as chief of caretaker govt

Razzak urges president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The President would be responsible for any kind of dire consequences in the country if he fails to elect a 'neutral and non-partisan person' as the chief of caretaker government after the current government expires on October 28, said Awami League Presidium Member Abdur Razzak yesterday.

As per the constitution, it is the responsibility of the president to elect the chief of caretaker government among the immediate past

4 sustain acid burns in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people, including a woman and a minor boy of a family, sustained acid burn injuries in the city yesterday.

They are Mohammad Ayub Ali, 36, Azmir Kabiraj, 30, his wife Hamida Begum, 22, and their son Imon Shah, 7.

They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

The incident occurred when Ayub, owner of New Hasan Jewelers at Pallabi, had an altercation with his elder brother Shahjahan in the shop at noon.

At one stage of altercation, Shahjahan threw a glass of acid towards Ayub inflicting serious burn injuries on them.

Pallabi police arrested Shahjahan and filed a case.

UN Day tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh joins the rest of the world in celebrating the United Nations Day on October 24 marking the 61st founding anniversary of the United Nations (UN).

The UN officially came into being soon after the end of the World War II on October 24, 1945.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in a message on the occasion expressed her government's firm commitment to the objectives and principles of the UN charter.

She said since its inception 61 years ago, the UN has been working for promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, fighting against deadly diseases, advancing initiatives for sustainable development, combating transnational crimes and terrorism and ensuring peace through peacekeeping.

WEATHER TODAY Dry weather likely UNB, Dhaka. Weather may remain mainly dry over the country having chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind at one or two places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.



Mufti Hannan, brother put on remand again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again placed Mufti Hannan, operations commander of banned Islamist outfit Harkatul Jihad (Huji), and his brother Mahibullah alias Mafizur Rahman - also a Huji member - on a four-day remand, after police showed them arrested in a murder case.

The case was lodged with Sutrapur Police Station in connection with the killing of Anif Prakash alias Mohammad Ali on November 5, 2001.

Earlier, completing a 10-day remand with the help of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) produced two brothers before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, Dhaka yesterday afternoon. The remand had been granted in connection with the killing of Bazul Rahman.

In his forwarding report, CID Inspector and Investigation Officer (IO) of the case ZM Altafur Rahman mentioned that Hannan and Mafiz gave important information on the killing and the information was verified. So, they should be in custody until investigation completes, the IO wrote.

Later CID Inspector Humayun Kabir put forward a forwarding report asking for a 10-day remand for the Sutrapur murder case. In his report he mentioned that Hannan and Mafiz were involved in the killing.

He mentioned that the two brothers along with their accomplices killed the victim and dumped the body into a drain at Dinanath Sen Road near Wasa pump in Sutrapur on November 5, 2001. So, they need to be quizzed to find out the vital clues to the killing and the whereabouts of their accomplices, the IO added.

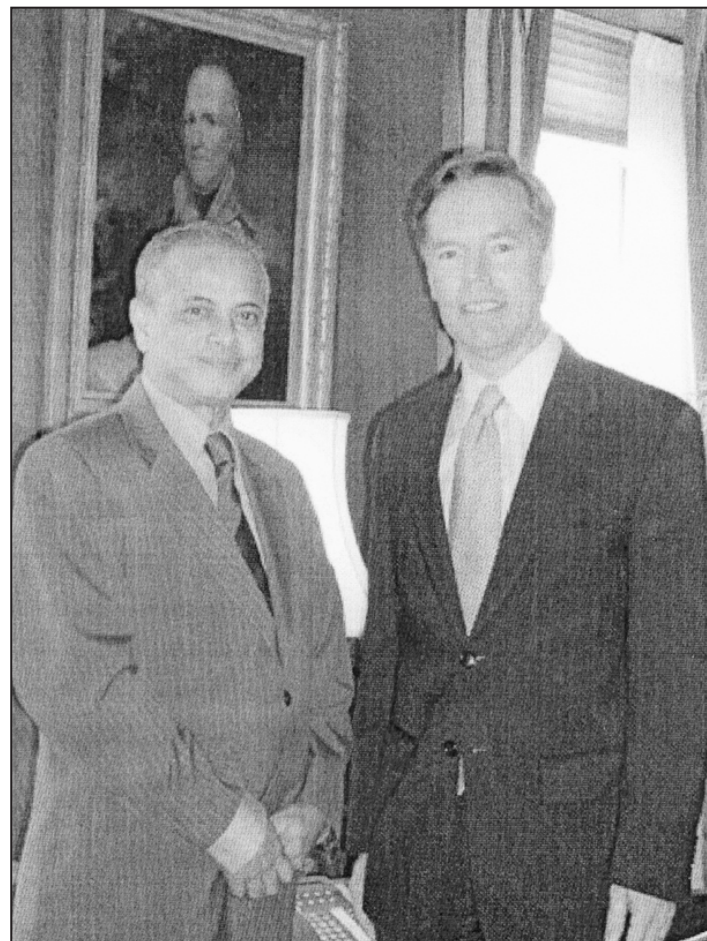
Defence lawyer Advocate Lutfar Rahman submitted a petition seeking cancellation of the remand prayer. He argued that his clients were not involved in the killing. Moreover, the murder took place five years back and five people were arrested in this regard. Later these five were released on bail. So, there was no room for placing them on remand, the lawyer added.

Batamul blast case and court placed him on a 13-day remand. On September 19, he was shown arrested in connection with the bomb blasts at the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) rally at Paltan on January 20, 2001, and was placed on a 14-day remand in two phases.

Remand on Huji members in CPB blast case Another Dhaka court yesterday placed Hannan's two accomplices on a 10-day remand for interrogation after police showed them arrested in connection with the bomb blasts at the

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) rally at Paltan on January 20, 2001.

On completion of their seven-day remand in the Ramna Batamul blast case, CID Inspector Syed Momin Hossain, also the IO of the case, said the two were involved in the blasts and they need to be questioned to find out the clues to the blasts, the IO added.



Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin poses for photograph with US Acting Secretary of State Nicholas Burns at the State Department during his visit to Washington recently.

Appeal for help

A father has sought financial assistance from affluent people for the treatment of his five-year-old son suffering from blood cancer.

Aliff Ahmed Zubair has been suffering from the disease for the last seven months. Doctors suggested taking him abroad immediately for better treatment and his family planned to take him to India after Eid.

But his father, M Zia Hannan, who is a private service holder, cannot afford such an expensive treatment. He has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save his son.

Contribution can be sent to account no. SB 21018784, Prime Bank Ltd, Banani Branch, Dhaka. Interested persons can also contact on 0187649700.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Veteran freedom fighter, former lawmaker and an organiser of 1969 Mass Uprising Mokhtar Ahmad passed away at a city clinic here yesterday morning at the age of 65.

He has been suffering from a complicated kidney disease for long.

Mokhtar left behind his wife, four sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

After a namaz-e-janaza at Laldighi Maidan after Asr prayers, he was laid to eternal rest at Station Road Graveyard at night.

Mokhtar, who was president of Greater Chittagong District Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) during 1967-68, actively took part in the movement of 1969 and in the liberation war in this part of the country in 1971.

He was elected a lawmaker in 1988.