

GRAFT CASE
Two ex-Titas staffers
get 5-year sentence

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced two former employees of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd to five years' imprisonment for taking Tk 5,000 as bribe from a sweater factory in 2007.

The duo are Md Kamruzzaman Sarkar, former deputy assistant engineer of Demra Titas Gas office, and its technician Md Abdur Rahim.

Judge Shaikh Nazmul Alam of the Special Judge's Court-4 of Dhaka handed down the verdict in presence of Kamruzzaman while Rahim is on the run.

The court also fined them Tk 25,000 each, in default of which they will serve three more months in jail.

The punishment of the fugitive will be effective from the day of his arrest or surrender, the judge added.

Earlier, prosecution and defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of seven prosecution witnesses, including the complainant.

According to the prosecution, the two employees on June 14, 2007 took Tk 5,000 from a general manager of Nippon Sweaters Ltd at Chairman Market in Dakkhin Khan for giving connection of a gas line.

But they were caught red-handed while taking the bribe and a case was filed against them with Dakkhin Khan Police Station.

Md Zahid Hossain, an assistant director of the Anti-Corruption Commission, on May 8 of 2009 submitted a charge sheet against the two accused.

The court framed charges against them on September 17 the same year.



Human-powered vehicles like rickshaws are banned on a number of major roads in the capital -- at least during peak hours -- to maintain traffic discipline, but when government agencies themselves flout those regulations, it sets nothing but a bad example. This rickshaw-van carrying bamboos and a signboard of Dhaka Wasa was spotted on VIP Road near Paltan in broad daylight last week.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Verdict in arms case
against Papia today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The judgment in the arms case filed against expelled Jubo Mohila League leader Shamima Nur Papia and her husband Mofizur Rahman Sumon is set to be delivered by a Dhaka tribunal today.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka is scheduled to read out the judgement around 2pm, Additional Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal confirmed to The Daily Star.

Earlier, the judge on September 27 set the date on completion of the trial within nine working days.

During their arguments, the prosecution told the tribunal that they have been able to prove the charges against the accused and sought highest punishment -- life term imprisonment.

The tribunal recorded statements of 12 prosecution witnesses, including complainant of the case. The same tribunal framed charges against the couple in the case on August 23.

A team of Rab arrested Papia and her husband -- a former Chhatra League leader -- and their two accomplices from Dhaka airport on February 22 when they were trying to leave the country.

The following morning, Rab raided the house of Papia at Indira Road in Farmgate and recovered a foreign pistol, two magazines, 20 bullets, five bottles of foreign liquor, Tk 58,41,000 cash, credit and debit cards of different banks.

On February 24, an arms case was filed against the couple with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

On June 29, Rab Sub-inspector Arifuzzaman submitted the charge sheet against the couple to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

How did

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GOING VIRTUAL

During the pandemic, independent curator and researcher Kehkasha Sabah introduced a process-based curatorial practice with De | Real, a digital project created by 26 multidisciplinary artists from different parts of the globe.

"My online curation experience was very different. Since I planned to introduce two collaborators each day, I had to work late hours throughout the 14 days of the project," the curator mentioned. With over 2,800 hits by end of July, the virtual exhibition is a venture Kehkasha wants to continue exploring.

After the exhibition Muktir Mohanayak, commemorating National Mourning Day, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) organised an art exhibition, titled Unnoyoner Kobi Manobotar Ma to mark Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's birthday on September 28. The exhibition is open to the public upon online appointments, and will continue until October 27, 2020. Virtual versions of both these exhibitions, an initiative by Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of BSA, is available on the academy's website.

On behalf of Galleri Kaya, Rajen Gain informed The Daily Star that the pandemic has had very little effect on their activities, since they have always maintained a virtual presence alongside their physical exhibitions. As a part of their regular programmes, collectors and potential buyers are sent soft copies of the artworks. "Our gallery has been closed since March. However, if anyone wants to view any of the artworks physically, we arrange private visits upon their special requests, with proper safety measures," Gain concluded.

Sr judicial

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In a suomuto (voluntary) order, the HC directed the authorities concerned to release the four children, 10 to 12 years of age, from the custody of a development centre at Pulerhat in Jashore on bail and hand them over to their guardians by that night.

OC Abul Kalam was ordered to submit a report to the SC special officer by 10:30am on October 9 in this regard.

The HC bench led by Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah came up with the order following a report broadcast on a private television channel on the incident of arresting the children and "inhumanly" taking them to the centre, following rejection of their bail prayer.

The HC judges also ordered Enayet Ullah, who ordered police to send the children to the centre, to appear before the HC bench yesterday morning for his explanation.

The bench ordered the OC to appear before it along with the children and their

guardians. It also asked the registrar of Barishal Medical College Hospital to submit the medical report of the victim child to this court.

The Nari o Shishu Nirjaton Daman Tribunal of Barishal granted bail to the children immediately after being communicated with the HC order.

The incident took place on October 4. According to the case statement, the four boys raped the girl in the pretext of playing. The victim disclosed the matter to her mother after she fell sick on Oct 6. Her father filed the case the same day.

Bakerganj police arrested them on October 7 and produced them to the court of the senior judicial magistrate the same day. He rejected their bail petitions and ordered police to send them to the development centre.

The children were handed over to their parents in early hours on October 9 after they were released from the centre in line with the HC directive.

Railway stops sale of its
branded bottled water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following media reports critical of the quality of Bangladesh Railway's (BR) bottled water brand "Rail Pani", the railway authority has decided to stop selling the product for the time being.

In a press release issued yesterday, the Railways Ministry said they have sent samples of the water to Buet and Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI) for testing and stopped selling the water. Marketing for the band will be resumed after test results return.

The ministry said BR has recently signed a contract with Shyamoli Food and Beverage Pvt Ltd after an open tender to introduce the "Rail Pani" brand, said the press release.

But some media organisations are running fabricated and ill-motivated reports (against the brand) without proper verification of information, the press release read.

Shyamoli Food's "Shyamoli Drinking Water" is a highly used bottled-water brand certified by both Buet and BSTI, and the same water was going to be rebranded as "Rail Pani", the document said, claiming that the fact that there has not been any allegations against Shyamoli Water goes to show that the reports blasting "Rail Pani" are ill-motivated.

On August 13, BR and Shyamoli Food and Beverage signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.

Youth held

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TWO HELD ON RAPE CHARGES

Two persons were arrested from the capital's Sabujbagh area yesterday after a girl filed a case against them on Saturday night on charges of rape and abetting rape, after promising of marriage.

The arrestees are -- the alleged rapist Sabuj Mia (32) and his accomplice Abdus Samad (35) -- after the 18-year old girl filed the case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Sabujbagh Police Station.

The girl was sent to one-stop crisis centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital for medical tests, said Sub-inspector Riaz Uddin Sarker of the police station.

The SI said the girl got acquainted with Sabuj through Facebook six months ago and developed a relationship with him.

On October 4, she went to his house after he promised to marry her. He kept her there and raped her several times till yesterday, the SI said quoting the case statement.

Sabuj gave various excuses when the girl asked him to marry her.

She then filed the case where she mentioned Samad as Sabuj's accomplice, the police officer added.

Eunus Ali

FROM PAGE 3

During hearing, Akond appeared before the SC, and apologised and expressed grief for his comments. Senior lawyers and former presidents of the Supreme Court Bar Association Khandker Mahbub Hossain, Zainul Abedin said AJ Mohammad Ali, SCBA Secretary Ruhul Quddus Kazal its former president AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon appeared for Akond and requested the SC to pardon him.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin represented the state.

On September 27, the Appellate Division issued the contempt of of court rule. The SC also suspended the enrolment of Akond as a lawyer for next two weeks.

The SC also ordered BTRC to immediately remove the derogatory posts given by Akond from the Facebook and to block him.

MISAPPROPRIATING Tk 91 LAKH

Shahed remanded for 4 days in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

A court in Chattogram yesterday placed Chairman of Regent Group Md Shahed on a four-day remand in a case filed with Double Mooring in connection with misappropriating Tk 91.25 lakh from a motor parts importer through fraudulence in port city.

The court of metropolitan Magistrate Safi Uddin passed the remand order after he was produced before the court with a 10-day remand prayer, said Assistant Commissioner (prosecution) Kazi Shahbuddin Ahmed of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

Shahed was brought to Chattogram Central Jail on Saturday from Dhaka.

On behalf of M/S Mega Motors' owner Zia Uddin Mohammed Jahangir, the company's staff member Saifuddin Mohsin filed the case on July 14, accusing Shahed.

Mega Motors alleged in the case that Shahed's Regent KCS Limited embezzled the money through fraudulence from them.

Another person, Shahidullah (60), was also made accused in the case.

According to the case statement, Shahed assured Jahangir that he will manage BRTA authorities to get route permit for three-wheelers (CNG-run auto-rickshaw) of the importer in Dhaka city.

In this regard, Shahed took Tk 32 lakh from Jahangir on January 22 in 2017.

From January 25 to March 5 the

same year, Shahed was given Tk 59.25 lakh in total.

Later, Shahed handed over a photocopy of a circular signed by the BRTA chairman to Mega Motors which stated that route permit for 200 CNG-run auto-rickshaws were given to them.

After getting the document, Mega Motors contacted BRTA authorities, and found out that the circular was fake.

"When we realised he cheated us, we told him to return the money but he did not. So, we filed the case," said the case's complainant.

Shahed, who made national headlines for providing fake Covid-19 certificates, is currently facing trials in dozens of cases, including for firearms, fraudulence and embezzlement.

Language

FROM PAGE 3

He was a student of the first batch at Dhaka Medical College. He was also the president of the Society of Surgeons of Bangladesh (SOSB) in the 1982-1983 session.

Born on January 1, 1927, Prof Mirza Mazharul hailed from Agcharan village in Kalihati of Tangail.

His namaz-e-janaza was held after Zohr prayers at the Birdem hospital yesterday, his nephew Mirza Tofazzal Hossain told this correspondent.

He was laid to rest at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Dhaka later in the day, Tofazzal said.

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MD. ARMAN HOSSAIN
Project Director

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works mentioned below under KDA, Khulna.

Sl. No.	Name of work & Package No.	e-Tender Notice	Tender ID	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)
	Widening and Improvement of Khulna Shipyard Road-01	e-GP/01/KDA/Khulna/2020-2021	502973	08-Nov-2020 Time: 17.00	09-Nov-2020 Time: 14.00

This is the online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 17.00 on 08-Nov-2020. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



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A man loads up a bunch of plastic water canisters to the back of a rickshaw in Old Dhaka's English Road, headed towards Sadarghat. He said they collect these bottles from around the capital, and sell them sometimes per weight to plastic recyclers, and sometimes per piece to people looking for a water container of decent volume on their waterways journey. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Alarming rise

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In Pakistan shows a five-month closure of schools have forced students backward for 14 months. We need to consider this in terms of our country. Rather than taking a sudden decision, we need constant monitoring to reopen our schools."

Lawmaker Aroma Dutta said, "Reality must be considered before taking any decision. It is true that we lost a lot during this pandemic. The rate of school dropouts has increased. We need to ensure technological and technical education for students, especially

for girls, so that they can ensure their livelihood whenever needed."

Campaign for Popular Education executive director Rasheda K Choudhury said, "School closure has affected both our students and teachers. This pandemic is acting like a magnifying glass for us. Through this, we can examine all our mistakes and think of our way forward. Before reopening schools, we need to concentrate on the related data and reality."

Prof Sadeka Halim said, "Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in women's empowerment

and girl children's empowerment... But child marriage has been instrumental to the drop-out rate of girls."

"During this covid-19 crisis, we have seen that our education system is closely connected to our livelihood. So, we can't consider the education system as an isolated phenomenon. We need to think about what can be done for about 43 percent families who have been forced under the poverty line and these families have a large number of students from schools, colleges and universities," she added.

Bangladesh Police Women Network's president, additional commissioner Amena Begum said, "Sometimes parents forcibly marry their girls early. To prevent early marriage people can avail services from police dialing 999. We are working on school programmes to make students aware of this."

Prof Dr Sadeka Halim, Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Dhaka, and Australian High Commission in Dhaka's first secretary Simon Barclay also joined the event, moderated by Brac director Nobonita Chowdhury.