

Housewife murdered for dowry

Four of a family get life terms in Feni

FENI, Oct 15: Four members of a family, including a woman, were today awarded life term in jail for killing a housewife for dowry, reports UNB.

District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq pronounced the judgement on Fazul Karim, his brother Nurul Karim, Nurul's wife Rehana Akhtar and another brother Suruj Mia for murdering Rokeya by dipping her into a pond.

Rehana was tried in absentia as she had been hiding to escape arrest since the gruesome killing of Rokeya Begum, wife of Fazul Karim, on June 1 last year at village Salarpur in Sonagazi thana of the district.

The lifers were also fined Tk 5,000 each and in default another year of rigorous imprisonment. Two others—Nurun Nabi and Shamsul Haq were acquitted of the charge.

According to prosecution, Rokeya was tortured, confined into kitchen at night and then drowned in a pond near their



Sheikh Hasina presiding over the first meeting of Awami League Advisory Council yesterday.

AL advisory council talks future policy

By Staff Correspondent

The first meeting of the newly formed advisory council of the Awami League was held Thursday morning with Sheikh Hasina in the chair at her Minto road official residence.

The meeting discussed the prevailing political situation and planned future working policy of the advisory council.

Council members Salauddin Yousof MP, Abdul Rahim MP, Abdul Momen Talukder, Advocate Gazul Huq, Dr MA Kadri, Architect Mazharul Islam, Mazharul Rahman, AMH Sadeq, Dr Durgadas Bhattacharya, Shah AMS Kibria and Party General Secretary Zillur Rahman attended the meeting.

The AL amended its constitution and formed a 15-member advisory council. One post still remained vacant.

JS: Two resolutions

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The resolution were moved on private members day by Awami League members Joyal Abedin Hazari and Mirza Azam respectively.

Another resolution moved by Treasury bench member Sardar Shakawat Hossain Bakul was withdrawn. In his resolution, Bakul demanded that electricity consumers in rural areas be supplied with meters by December 31.

Responding to the resolution of the opposition members Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar said the government would have no objections in introducing Honours courses in those colleges. It would be considered on a priority basis as soon as sufficient staff and university permission would be available.

Regarding Introduction of Honours courses in Ashok Mahmud College, the Education Minister pointed out that the member of the area, State Minister for Health Sirajul Haque, and LGD Minister Abdul Salam Talukder had already requested him to approve it.

He informed the House that the Establishment Ministry had already taken steps at creating new posts aimed at introducing Honours courses at the college.

The minister urged both the opposition members to withdraw their resolutions. But the members refused. The resolutions were rejected by separate voice votes.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khandoker Mosharraf Hossain, while responding to Bakul's resolution, noted that regular power supply was given to subscribers only when he had a metered connection through PDB, DESA and REB.

Requesting the Treasury bench member to withdraw the resolution, the minister assured him that steps would be taken against a section of PDB or DESA employees who provide illegal connections to unauthorised subscribers. Bakul, satisfied with the ministers assurance, agreed to withdraw his resolution.

Two other resolutions were also introduced in the House on the day. Treasury bench member from Savar Niamat Ullah moved a resolution for constructing a mosque near late president Ziaur Rahman's mazar. Awami League member from Bagerhat Dr Mozammel Hossain moved a resolution demanding implementation of the coastal embankment project of 37 polder in Bagerhat.

'Push back' left to politicians

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From the Indian side on its calling off the deportation of the Bangla-speaking Indian citizens to Bangladesh.

The flag meeting between the border guards of the two countries agreed that all the bunkers and trenches dug within 300 yards of the international border demarcation line be re-filled and the troops withdrawn.

Bhomra flag meeting, second in the 300-kilometre Jessore-Khulna border between India and Bangladesh, took place five days after the first one on October 10 at Petrapole in India.

BSS adds: The meeting also discussed the stone pelting issue by the civilians across the border near Bhomra and decided to take care for stopping recurrence of such incident.

Referring to the stone throwing issue, the BDR commanding officer said the meeting observed that some quarters in both the sides wanted to fish in the troubled water.

Meanwhile, 183 persons including women and children pushed in by the Indian side have been staying in the no-man's land near Bhomra, Lakkhidari, Keragachhi and Gujandanga for the last 8 to 10 days.

The stranded people in the no-man's land have been passing their days in inhuman condition with untold sufferings.

Some of them were found standing in waist-high water. They are also denied of food.

Talking to the BSS Correspondent, they appealed to the world humanity to come to their rescue.

Haru Ghosh, 22, of Lakkhidari village of Bhomra said that he had never seen such inhuman act by the Indian side throughout his life. 'We had hoped that the relations between the two countries (Bangladesh and India) will further improve after the handing over of Tin Bigha corridor', he said.

Mohammad Israfil, another youngster of the locality, said 'we want stoppage of such inhuman acts.'

Our Jessore Correspondent reports: During the last two days until Thursday, there was no BSF attempt to push people into Bangladesh through Jessore took place.

Officials here said that the BSF men had already filled up some of the bunkers and withdrew all the people brought to the frontier areas from inside India for deportation.

However, information coming in from across the border said that the BSF men kept digging foxholes outside the 150-yard border line in their territory and were strengthening troops with sophisticated weapons from Kalyani to Joyntipur.

Talking to The Daily Star,

BOL shelves plan to suspend supply to 3 hospitals

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Oxygen Limited (BOL) has shelved its plan to suspend oxygen supply to three public hospitals following promises from the authorities of these organisations to pay all arrears bills.

BOL had threatened to stop oxygen supply to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Sir Salmullah Medical College and Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases by October 13 if the bills are not cleared.

The total due from these three hospitals amount to Taka 41 lakh.

However, these hospitals have given, undertaking to withdraw their resolutions. But the BOL source told The Daily Star that despite the threat, the company would never have stopped their supply on humanitarian ground. He said the threat was aimed at quick realisation of the dues.

Allow Mustafiz to attend JS session, AL pleads

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League members, supported by a number of other opposition MPs, yesterday demanded that jailed member Mustafizur Rahman be allowed to attend the parliamentary sessions immediately so that his constituents do not go unrepresented.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni requested the opposition members to put up a notice 'as we need to study if the privilege has been violated.'

Taking the floor on a point of order, Opposition Chief Whip Muhammad Nasim noted that Mustafizur Rahman, the AL member from Sandwip, was arrested the same day the Jatiya Sangsad was summoned on September 23 on similar charges on which he was arrested earlier and was later granted bail by the High Court.

He regretted that a 'respected member' of the House was arrested from a newspaper office and he was kept on remand for five days at the Motijheel police station.

Nasim said that until the allegations against Rahman were proved in court, he should be allowed to attend the parliament sessions to represent his constituents or else his special privilege would be infringed upon.

'I request you to ensure that Mustafizur Rahman attend the ongoing parliament session and represent his constituents,' Nasim told the chair.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad said, 'He is being given a hard time only because of political reasons primarily because he is an Awami League MP.'

Pleading the chair to uphold the prestige of the House, he added 'I demand that you rule today so that he is allowed to attend the parliamentary sessions immediately.'

Home Minister Abdul Matin Choudhury informed the House that Rahman was arrested according to the existing laws as Bangladesh Bank lodged specific charges against him with Motijheel thana.

'Crores of taka have been misappropriated and procession have been brought out demanding his arrest,' he said, adding 'no one is above the existing laws of the country.'

Nasim immediately protested the Home Minister's statement saying 'he is repeating the allegations as if he is giving a verdict'. The minister pointed out that a new case was filed against Rahman while he was arrested under the Special Powers Act the first time around.

Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed also protested the Home Minister's statement. 'You cannot say that he has misappropriated the money, it is part of the overall allegations.'

Clarifying his statement, Home Minister said that he only pointed out the allegations made by the Bangladesh Bank and denied having said anything else.

Italy assures help

From Page 1 Col 5

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, Agriculture Minister Majidul Huq, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister were present on the occasion while the Italian Prime Minister was assisted by his advisors Madame Farnanda Contri and Safo Vento.

Begum Zia today also called on Italian Low House President Clorino Napolitano at his Montecitorio office here.

During the meeting the Prime Minister said that full-fledged democracy had been established in Bangladesh with all democratic institutions in place.

The Prime Minister mentioned the Italian parliamentary delegation which visited Bangladesh recently and said during the visit the delegation had very useful discussions with the parliamentarians in Bangladesh.

Napolitano appreciated the development reforms. He thought there was need for expanding the parliamentary linkages between two countries and hoped that a parliamentary delegation would visit Italy soon.

The Midnight File

No change in Clinton's lead over Bush

WASHINGTON, Oct 15: Despite President George Bush's attacks on Bill Clinton's credibility during Sunday's televised debate, a CBS-New York Times opinion poll showed no change in Clinton's 13-point lead over Bush, reports AFP.

Serb air chief refuses to hand over war planes

BANJA LUKA, Yugoslavia, Oct 15: The chief of the Bosnian Serb air force said today he did not intend to hand over his war planes to Yugoslavia despite an announced agreement, Tanjug news agency reported, says Reuter.

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Road accidents

From Page 1 Col 7

Miah succumbed to his injuries at about 3.45 am Thursday.

However police seized the minibus but the driver managed to escape. Police sent the body to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

In Chittagong, BSS adds: Three persons were killed and another was seriously injured in two separate road accidents here yesterday.

According to port police, two persons were killed when a truck and a tempo collided at Fakirhat, adjacent to port. The injured driver of the tempo, was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in a critical condition. One of the two victims was identified as Farid Ahmed (30).

In the second accident one Nastumuddin succumbed to his injury after a speeding truck hit him at Muradpur under Panchlaish thana.

Port and Panchlaish police seized both the vehicles but the drivers managed to flee.

Separate cases were filed with police in this connection.

In another road accident a truck driver was killed when a speeding minibus ran over him at Sonargaon road in the city at about 4.15 pm yesterday.

The victim was identified as Mohammed Abdul Mannan and he was about 50. Fatally injured Abdul Mannan was sent to the DMCH where doctors on duty declared him dead.

However the driver along with the minibus managed to escape. Police sent the body to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

A baby taxi driver was killed and another three were injured when a speeding minibus knocked the baby taxi at Tejgaon Satrastra crossing at about 9 pm Wednesday.

The injured persons were identified as Mohammed Morshed Miah 35, Mohammed Abul Hossain Master 60, Mohammed Abdul Khaleque 45 and Mohammed Abdul Motaheb 35. They were rushed to the DMCH where they baby taxi driver Mohammed Morshed

From the Gallery

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in jail, having been arrested recently for the second time on charges of bank fraud and embezzlement of investors' money.

Nasim suggested that Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni should give a ruling from the Chair ordering prison authorities to bring Rahman to the House during sessions.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, perhaps in his eagerness to defend the arrest of Rahman a second time, catalogued the complaints against him in such a matter-of-fact manner as to make them sound as established facts. His comment that the Sandwip MP 'has embezzled 100 crores taka from BCI investors' deposits', stung Moudud Ahmed of Jatiya Party into action.

'He can't say that Mustafiz has embezzled the money, because then there will be no need left for a trial or verdict of the court', Ahmed said.

Choudhury meanwhile, again getting carried away a little perhaps, mentioned that there had been processions by BCI depositors demanding Rahman's arrest and trial, which brought a sharp retort from Nasim.

'There have been many more processions against the Home Minister himself. If processions could be cited as a criterion for arresting someone, then the Home Minister should no longer be a minister at all', he said.

Police raid two DU halls, pick up three

By DU Correspondent

Police raided two residential halls of Dhaka University and picked up three persons yesterday afternoon.

Police began raiding the Shahidullah and Fazlul Huq Halls of the university at about 1.30 pm and ended about 3 pm, campus sources said.

Police said they picked up the persons from the Shahidullah Hall for interrogation. The police, however, did not disclose their names.

Hall sources said that the persons were guests. Provost and house tutors were present during the raid, sources said.

No arms and ammunition were found during the raid, sources said.

Earlier on September 30 on the eve of PM's visit to DU, police raided almost all the residential halls of the DU.

Bangladesh Rifles and the police have still been patrolling the DU campus since a fierce gunbattle between the two factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal September 4. The clash left two students killed.

DU commemorates JN Hall tragedy

By DU Correspondent

The teachers, students and employees of Dhaka University observed 'Mourning Day' yesterday to commemorate the death of several people following a roof collapse at the Jagannath Hall in 1985.

39 Students, employees and guests were killed as the roof of the hall TV room collapsed while they were watching a popular BTV drama serial 'Suktara'.

To observe the day the university authorities and the Jagannath Hall Students' Union chalked out elaborate programmes.

The teachers, students and the employees brought out a mourning procession from the Aparajeo Bangla of the university yesterday at about 7 morning.

Marching the campus the procession led by the DU pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Wakil Ahmed laid wreaths at the October Memorial Monument at the Jagannath Hall premises.

Meanwhile, different students organisations and different hall union leaders laid wreaths at the monument. The students organisations included the pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I), JSD (Inu) backed Chhatra League (B-K), Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), Dhaka University Christian Organisation, Bangladesh Chhatra Dal.

Coast guard

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The proposed coast guard will take necessary measures for curbing crimes like smuggling, piracy and drug trafficking in the coastal areas. It will also help maintain law and order in the coastal belt.

Presided over by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, the meeting discussed various matters relating to formation of the coast guard and its structure, authority and activities.

Man-machine and money related to formation of the new force also came up for discussion in the meeting, which emphasised building a formal and full-fledged coast guard, the handout said.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Home Secretary Manzoor-ul-Karim, Naval Chief Rear Admiral M Mohaiminul Islam, DG of Police A S M Shahjahan, IG of the Narcotics Control Department A M M Nasrullah Khan and DG of BDR Maj Gen Mohammad Anwar Hossain.

Fresh tremors shake Cairo

CAIRO, Oct 15: More buildings collapsed as fresh tremors shook Cairo and authorities scrambled to avert further casualties after 471 people were killed in Monday's earthquake, reports Reuter.

Mostafiz

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as far as India and Pakistan are concerned, officials and observers said.

According to officials, the Foreign Minister is scheduled to leave for Islamabad October 21 and reach New Delhi October 24 and then proceed to Kathmandu and Thimpu. In the second phase, he will go to Colombo and Male.

These proposed programmes are subject to confirmation depending on the flight schedules. The officials are working out the details and Rahman is to complete his trips by the first week of November.

In Pakistan, the Foreign Minister's meetings with Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif and his counterpart Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Siddique Hossain Kanju will focus on the progress made so far in setting the stage for repatriation of the first batch of the stranded Pakistanis. The airlifting of the refugees in to start in December.

Rahman is expected to hand over the letter of invitation to Nawaz Sharif on October 22 and is scheduled to fly October 24 to Lahore, the capital of Punjab province where housing facilities for the returnees are being built. According to some sources, the Foreign Minister would be conducted to the construction sites.

In India, the Foreign Minister is to meet Prime Minister Narasimha Rao on October 25 when the new sore point, the so-called Operation Push Back, is expected to top the agenda of discussions, although Rahman's delegation is unlikely to include desk officers dealing with bilateral issues. He will be accompanied by officials from the SAARC Wing of the Foreign Ministry.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry officials are busy preparing the talking points for the Foreign Minister for Monday's general discussions on the Operation Push Back in Parliament.

According to observers and officials, the mood and atmosphere of Monday's debate would to a great extent determine the line of action for the Foreign Minister who meets the Indian leaders the next week.

The Foreign Minister, now in Italy accompanying Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, will be back home October 18.

Hasina

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Minto Road residence.

Hasina said Chhatra League, her party's student wing, had played historic role in clinching democratic rights of the people, in the War of Liberation and reconstruction and rehabilitation of the post-independent Bangladesh.

Recalling the contribution of her student wing in the nine-year anti-Ershad movement, she said Chhatra League won glory for its leading role in the movement.

'To tarnish that image of Chhatra League, the party in power is hatching conspiracy following the design of the past autocracy,' Hasina told the BCL delegation.

The Awami League leader called upon the students to restore healthy student politics by eliminating what she said government-backed terrorism on the campus.

Chhatra League JU unit leaders Mohammad Mohibullah, Mostafa Ikhtiar Uddin, Jahangir Hossain, Sadeqa Sultana Mitu, Nahidul Islam Rahat, Akhtar Hossain and Shubrata Rafique were on the delegation.

Sky becomes clear by tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The last week's depression in the Bay which moved north-west is causing the present rain and cloudy weather over Bangladesh, weathermen said Thursday.

The sky may be clear by Saturday and the weather condition would considerably improve today (Friday), they said.

The Met office forecast light to moderate rain or shower accompanied by gusty wind at many places over Chittagong and Khulna Divisions and at a few places over Dhaka Division.

WB project: 2200 of BIWTC may lose jobs

Some 2,200 employees of BIWTC will be surplus under a World Bank-financed project planned for an overhaul of the sector, reports UNB.

The World Bank will provide 45 million US dollars in credit for implementing the IWT-3 Project. State Minister for Shipping Harun-or-Rashid told parliament yesterday replying to Shahjahan Khan of Awami League.

Under the project, the number of state-owned water vessels will be reduced to 147 from 472.

Of the surplus, 200 employees whose remaining service term is less than five years will be given retirement with full benefits, the State Minister told the House.

He said the government had to pay point 75 (.75) per cent service charge on drawn-up credit and maximum .50 per cent commitment charge on the undrawn credit.

Nobel Peace Prize today

OSLO, Oct 15: Guatemalan Indian leader Rigoberta Menchu and the Salvation Army are among favourites to win the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, but the Norwegian media say that quessing the 1992 winner is more difficult than usual, reports Reuter.

Former Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel, South Africa's Nelson Mandela and President FW de Klerk, and the relief organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres are among those mentioned for the prize.

Mymensing-3

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cian Roushan Ara bagged 33,368 votes defeating her closest rival ruling party candidate Advocate Nazmul Huda who secured 31,303 votes.

The Jatiya Party candidate Nurul Amin Khan Pathan got 26,791 votes, placed third, while Abul Haab, a JSD (Rab) candidate flopped with only 343 votes.

The Gourpur seat fell vacant with the death of AL MP Nazrul Islam, husband of Roushan Ara, in a road accident a few months back.

The voting in 62 centres was peaceful and out of 169,682 votes 92,717 were cast (64.61 percent) in the election.

Of total vote cast, 912 were rejected.