

Drug smuggling case

Trial begins today

By Farid Ahmed

Trial of five accused, four of them foreign nationals, in the sensational drug case begins in the court of the Second Additional Sessions Judge, Dhaka today.

Among the five accused, three foreigners—a teenaged American girl Elladah McCord, a South African Robert Blankson and a Nigerian Ochendu Goddy were arrested in the meantime and detained in the Dhaka Central Jail.

Two other accused, a Bangladeshi Abdul Quayum and another Nigerian Okey Godwin are still absconding.

The Second Additional Sessions Judge, Mohammad Ansar Uddin Sikder, fixed today (Monday) as all the three arrested accused pleaded to the Judge that they were not guilty on November 25, 1992.

Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdur Razzak brought charges against the principal accused Elladah and four others under Section 19 (1) (b) of the Narcotics Control Act, 1990 for contravention of Section 9 for carrying, supplying and possessing heroin.

Excluding Elladah four others were also charged under Section 25 of the Act for abetting trafficking heroin.

In addition, two others Ochendu Goddy and Okey Godwin were also charged under Section 201 of Bangladesh Penal Code (BPC) for screening the facts exchanging passports with each other and helping the offender.

If the accused persons are proved guilty they might face the death sentence or life imprisonment as maximum punishment under the country's existing law.

Elladah, the only American girl detained in a Bangladesh jail was arrested with 3.27 kgs of heroin hidden under her clothing at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) when

she was due to fly for Zurich, Switzerland, from Dhaka February 25 last year.

An airport security personnel challenged Elladah as she was passing the ZIA anti-hijacking point and found four packets of heroin on searching her body.

After police investigation following the statement of the American girl four other persons were found involved in the drug (heroin) trafficking. Elladah, a resident of Houston of Texas, USA, came to Bangladesh on February 15 last year on a ticket given by one of her friends. Earlier the American girl said that she was a student and her visit to Bangladesh was part of a study tour.

However the prosecution side enlisted 33 witnesses including the Chief Security Officer of the ZIA Captain Ikramullah (Retd), plaintiff in the drug-case lodged with Dhaka Cantonment police station on February 26 and the Investigating Officer, an Assistant Commissioner of Police Ruhul Amin.

Advocate Kazi Abdul Wahab and Advocate Kazi Mohammad Aurangzeb will appear on behalf of Elladah McCord while Advocate SK Chowdhury for Robert Blankson and Ochendu Goddy. Advocate Mohammad Khorshed Alam will appear in the court for the two absconding accused as state defence today.

German Economy Minister resigns

BOONN, Jan 3: German Economy Minister Juergen Moelleman announced his resignation today over allegations that he used his ministerial influence for private gain, reports AFP.

Join new struggle

From Page 1 Col 4

economic sectors and outlined the policies for taking the country to progress. He said the realistic action plan, undertaken by the government, sought to give an institutional shape to democracy, and alleviate poverty with a provision for "Dal-Bhat" by generating massive employment opportunities in the rural and urban areas.

President Biswas said in the backdrop of the political and socio-economic perspective the government has drawn up a number of well defined policies on priority basis to implement the countrywide canal digging programme to raise agricultural production, control flood and promote pisciculture. The government was also striving for rapid industrialisation through market economy in the light of present day global reality and democratic environment, he said.

He said the removal of illiteracy through mass education, education for women and compulsory primary education, expansion of primary health-care facilities and populations planning for the development of human resources and effective involvement of women in nation building activities formed the part of priority programmes of the government.

In formulating policies the government has also given emphasis on maintaining environmental balance through tree plantation and afforestation, promoting healthy culture on the basis of Bangladeshi nationalism and ensuring peace, order and stability in society, he added.

Referring to the accumulated rubble of long years of autocratic misrule, the most devastating cyclone and tidal surge of 1991, repeated floods and Rohingya refugees, the President said the international situation was not also favourable.

"With faith in Almighty Allah and unflinching support of the patriotic people, the government was able to overcome these challenges successfully," he said.

President Biswas said the government was determined to make meaningful the hard-earned democracy. Efforts are continuing to give democracy a permanent institutional shape.

The establishment of full control of the Sangsad over the government is its best guarantee. In its efforts to make parliament more effective some committees, special committees and sub committees have been constituted. As a result of this delineation the authority of parliament has been established over different min-

istries, he said.

He said he was happy to see that Bangladesh has earned reputation at home and abroad as a democratic nation for the successful holding of general election in 1991. The democratic march has been further consolidated by holding free and neutral elections to the Union Councils and the by-elections of the Jatiya Sangsad. The Election Commission has been considering modernisation of the process of election, computerisation of voter lists and identity cards for voters, he said.

Referring to the freedom of speech, he said it was a precondition to institutionalise democracy. In this connection he mentioned the publication of a huge number of newspapers and tabloids in the country, freedom of expression, telecast and broadcast of the news of opposition parties through television and radio, opening of more television relay stations and introduction of CNN programme for free flow of information.

Turning to Chittagong Hill regions, the President said an integrated programme was being executed for the overall development of some regions including the hill districts of Chittagong. During the current fiscal Taka 15 crore is being spent for them.

To solve the problem in Chittagong hilly regions, the government has formed a committee consisting of members from the Jatiya Sangsad, headed by the Communications Minister. The committee has broadly exchanged views with the local government parishes Chairmen and Members of the three hill districts, local elites and the tribal leaders, he said, adding: the government believes in the solution of this problem under constitutional framework.

He said steps have been taken to ensure freedom and neutrality of the country's judiciary. Law Commission will be formed soon.

The Company Act is being reformed to bring about a consistency with the free market economy. Large number of judges have been appointed for quick disposal of cases, he added.

Lasting the measures for the women development, he said Women Affairs Ministry has been conducting vocational training in 22 districts and 136 thanas. In this connection he referred to the measures to stop oppression of women, recruit 60 per cent of women teachers for primary schools, extended rural works projects, establishment of maternity centres and orphanages throughout the country.

Remaining part on page 2 |



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina addressing the hungerstriking workers of Machine Tools Factory in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. —Star photo

BMTF, NGFF workers break fast at Hasina's request

By Staff Correspondent

The workers of Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory (BMTF) and Natural Gas Fertilizer Factory (NGFF) who started their token hunger strike broke their fasting at the request of Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina Sunday.

The workers organised the hunger strike demanding working capital for BMTF and arrears wages of its workers, and rehabilitation of NGFF.

Addressing the fasting workers in front of the Jatiya Press Club, the AL chief, Sheikh Hasina assured that she would raise the issue of the workers in Parliament.

She also requested the workers to break their fasting upon which they postponed their programme.

BCL founding day today

By DU Correspondent

The 45th founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Chhatra League will be observed today (Monday). All the factions of the organisation have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) will bring out procession and hold rally at the TSC of the Dhaka University campus at 10 am. The BCL (M-I) also will hold a discussion at the Institution of Engineers with the Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina as the chief guest on January 6th. It also has arranged a photo exhibition at the TSC at 3 pm today.

The JSD (Inu) backed BCL (B-K) will hold a rally at the Aparajee Bangla of the DU today at 10 am and later it will parade the city streets with a colourful procession to celebrate the day. The BCL (B-K) programmes also include a reunion and a discussion meeting in the Arts Building premises of the Dhaka University on January 6. The discussion will be addressed among others by Hasanul Huq Inu, Kazi Aref Ahmed and Sharif Nurul Ambia.

The Montu backed BCL (M-I) will hold a reunion and discussion at the Dhaka University campus on January 5 to observe the founding anniversary.

Besides, other factions of the Chhatra League have also chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

1141 Rohingyas return home

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 3: One thousand one hundred forty-one Rohingya refugees were repatriated to Myanmar through three transit camps here today, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the refugees had gone back to their homeland voluntarily through Rangkhali, Nayapara-2 and Jummapara transit camps.

The total number of Rohingya refugees repatriated so far stands at 7103. The sources said more than 15,000 refugees had assembled at transit camps for going back to Myanmar and about one lakh refugees at different camps had expressed their willingness to do so.

2 JCD leaders freed on bail

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 3: Two leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were released on bail today.

It may be stated that Ali Ahmed, Organising Secretary and Quamrul Hassan Shahin were arrested earlier under Anti-Terrorism Law. Sylhet Sadar Magistrate granted them bail.

They were accorded warm reception at the jail-gate by the BNP, Jubadal, Chhatra Dal and Zia Parishad leaders

AL office set afire Manikganj JSD leader succumbs to injuries

MANIKGANJ, Jan 3: Supporters of JSD (Inu) ransacked and set fire to the district Awami League office here protesting killing of their leader Mozammel Huq who succumbed to injuries at Pangu Hospital in Dhaka today (Sunday), reports UNB.

Mozammel Huq (38), a leader of Ghior thana Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, was seriously injured on Saturday in an armed attack, allegedly by activists of Chhatra League (M-I).

He was rushed to Pangu Hospital in Dhaka where he died this (Sunday) morning.

Police arrested two people, including former VP of Government Debendra College students' union Motaleb Hossain, in connection with the murder of Mozammel.

Soon after the news of Mozammel's death reached Manikganj, his supporters went into a rampage near the Bar Library and damaged a motorbike of an Awami League leader and set fire to the local AL office.

The JSD activists also brought out a procession in the town but police halted them when militant processionists were marching the main

street. Police picked up one Ainal from the procession.

Saturday's clash between the activists of Awami League and JSD (Inu) was part of a series of clashes—a sequel to an incident involving supporters of the two parties during Sheikh Hasina's visit to Manikganj to join an all-party meeting on December 24.

24 JCD activists arrested from RU campus

RAJSHAHI, Jan 3: Twenty-four activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were arrested from Rajshahi University campus today after a clash between JCD activists and police that left two cops and five others injured, reports UNB.

Witnesses and police said the clash erupted when a group of JCD activists tried to prevent some examinees from entering the examination hall in the 3rd RU Science Building at 10 am.

Police resorted to lath-charge to disperse the mob and picked up 24 JCD activists from the scene.

Dhaka-11 by-elections

PRO applicable for candidates

The provisions of controlling election expenditures by the candidates in the Jatiya Sangsad polls under the Public Representation Order of 1972 would be applicable for the candidates in the February 3 by-election to Dhaka-11 (Mirpur), reports BSS.

The candidates, under the provisions of the order, would not be eligible to spend their approved amount of Taka three lakh or any part of the amount for the following purposes:

Printing of multi-coloured posters except using single colour printing of posters or leaflets on imported paper, erection of any arch and construction of gate, making of any dais or pandal bigger than 400 square feet, using of any banner made of cloth, hiring and using more than three

public address system microphones in the election area, setting up of more than 30 election camps, and offices, using of any kind of vehicles like truck, bus, taxi, motor car, motor cycle and speed boat for processions, any kind of electric illumination, using of multi-coloured election symbols or picture except one colour and exhibition of larger size of election symbol than the size specified by the Election Commission.

As per Election Commission specification, no election symbol should be bigger than five metres in length, breadth or in height.

The Election Commission press release said that the polling will begin at 7 am and continue uninterruptedly till 3 pm on February 3.

Mob, Navy men clash

From Page 1 Col 6

The clashes also spread to Cement Crossing, Narkeltala, Charpara, Taltala and Ali Shah Market areas. Some 6 Fire Brigade vans were also damaged during the violence.

The mob set ablaze Navy-owned cinema hall Sagorika and Navy Club near Bandar thana. Fire Brigade and Navy personnel brought the fire under control.

Nazir Ahmed Super Market, Ali Shah Market and Pear Ahmed Sweet Market were completely gutted in the arson which continued till afternoon, witnesses said.

Commander of the city MuktiJoddha Sangsad M Enamul Huq Chowdhury alleged his residence was also set afire and his family members could not be traced as yet.

A magistrate on duty at the scene of trouble seeking anonymity said the violence left many injured and caused widespread damage to property in the area.

People of the troubled areas abandoned their homes fearing further violence, witnesses said. Power supply in the area was disrupted as a result of the trouble.

Meanwhile, the authorities stepped up security by deploying a large contingent of police and BDR to ward off further trouble. Rear Admiral Mohaiminul Islam, Chief of Naval Staff, visited the scene for an on-the-spot inquiry.

Officials said the situation

Tender for JMB approach roads opens Monday

By Staff Correspondent

Tenders for the east and west approach roads (contracts three and four) of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) project will be opened at 4.15 pm Monday at the office of the JMB Authority.

Tenders for these two projects will be last received the same day till 4 pm. The tenders were floated September 1, 1992.

A total of 22 contractors prequalified for the project. Of them, 10 contractors qualified for the contracts 3 and 4.

The bridge has four components: the bridge, the river training works and the two approach roads.

Meanwhile, the last date of submission of tenders for contracts one and two has been deferred until February 1.

1 held for selling Paracetamol syrup in Sept

By Staff Correspondent

Police Saturday arrested a dispensary employee Sudhangsu Kumar Roy from Sutrapur area of the city for selling recently banned paracetamol syrup.

In a case lodged with Sutrapur police on Saturday it was said that Sudhangsu Kumar Roy a staff of Sutapa Medical Hall at Faridabad under Sutrapur police station sold a 'poisonous' paracetamol syrup to Dr Dilruba of 'Shishu' (children) Hospital on September 17, 1992, said a police officer last night.

An official of the Directorate of Drugs Administration, Farhad Hossain filed a case with Sutrapur police last Saturday over the sale of 'poisonous' paracetamol syrup and police in a prompt action rushed to the spot and arrested Sudhangsu on the same day under the Special Powers Act, said police.

Sudhangsu was arrested under Section 25c of the Special Powers Act, 1974 for selling adulterated drugs, said police.

But the government declared the ban on paracetamol syrup last month as experts found poisonous ingredient in the syrup which is harmful to the children.

Meanwhile, president of Aroni Juba Sangha at Sutrapur, Mohiuddin Chowdhury in a statement alleged that Sudhangsu, sports secretary of his organization was arrested in a 'motivated' and 'false' case Saturday.

It was to harass Sudhangsu, the chairman said he demanded his release.

JS adopts obituary reference

The Jatiya Sangsad at the first sitting of the eighth session yesterday morning adopted obituary reference on the death of five distinguished persons of the country, reports BSS.

They are: Parliament Member Al-Haj Harun-Al-Rashid Mollah, former State Minister Syed Altaf Hossain, former Provincial Minister Nasir Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, former Provincial Assembly Member Mohammad Abdul Hye and renowned journalist Al-Haj Shamsul Huda.

FP workers begin token work-stoppage

By Staff Correspondent

About 55,000 employees and workers of Family Planning Department yesterday, began a two-hour-a-day work-stoppage throughout the country.

The work-stoppage is aimed at realising their five-point demand including the setting up of a separate Family Planning Ministry.

The strike is being organised by Paribar Parikalpana Peshajibi Kendro Samannoy Parishad.

JS boycott

From Page 1 Col 7

Matiur Rahman Nizami's appeal to discuss the Babri Mosque incident and its political implications all over the region.

The CPB leader Shamsuddoha condemning Indian fundamentalists for the demolition of the Babri Mosque said that religion peddlers in Bangladesh should be condemned by the House for their provocation to destabilised communal harmony following the Indian incident.

The Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali at this point informed the House that the issue would be generally discussed, according to the unanimous decision of the Business Advisory Committee, on January 17.

The Speaker adjourned the House at 11.50 am to resume at 4 pm January 17.

The Midnight File

Rockets hit Kabul: 12 killed

KABUL, Jan 3: Rockets hit Afghanistan's capital Kabul at the weekend, killing at least 12 people and injuring nine Defence Ministry officials said today. They accused the Hezb-i-Islami Party headed by Radical Mujahideen Leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar of firing about 10 rockets which hit central Kabul on Saturday night and early this morning, reports Reuter.

Attack on train in Agra

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: Suspected Hindu radicals attacked a car of a passenger train in the Taj Mahal city of Agra in which a prominent government minister was travelling, news reports said Sunday. United News of India news agency said Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Madhav Rao Scindia was unhurt in the Saturday's attack on the train in Agra, reports AP.

Hearing adjourned

From Page 1 Col 7

tion in the independent functioning of the subordinate judiciary was retarding the growth and development of the country in the economic field.

"It is of utmost importance for the growth and development of the economy that law should be let down as to the status and tenure of the judges of the subordinate judiciary and that their constitutional safeguard relating to promotion, posting and discipline is ensured," he said.

The court commented that whatever may be the settlement outside the court, the court would not lag behind in giving its own comments and opinion in furthering the cause of rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.

The Senior Supreme Court Advocate, Dr Rafiqur Rahman, engaged by the government in the case during the previous hearing, was conspicuously absent during the day's hearing.

On that occasion, the Court expressed surprise and also expressed the desire to hear the Attorney General as an 'amicus curie' if not as a government counsel.

The Attorney General moved for an adjournment saying that due to ill health he could not contact higher-ups as per his earlier statement. The court adjourned the hearing till yesterday.

The day the petition was moved, the Court ordered the application to 'stand over' following a prayer by the Attorney General seeking 10 days time and assuring of 'discussing the matter with the highest authority of the country with a view to bringing about a happy solution to the working of the Constitution.'

The Writ challenged the exercise of power by the President while promoting judges without consulting the

Long-marchers

From Page 1 Col 8

March Implementation Committee said over two lakh devotees are expected to participate in the long march. A rally will be held at 12 noon before the march. According to the spokesman the marchers will halt at Dhopakola tomorrow six miles off here and resume their trek day after tomorrow.

UNB add: About 1,000 people wearing white cap left Jhenidah tonight in 16 buses for Jessore.

The caravan led by Maulana Azizul Haq earlier arrived Jessore from Dhaka.

Before departure, they had a brief rally at Wazir Ali Ground where speakers reaffirmed the determination to reach Ayodhya and rebuild the Mosque at its site.

Maulana Haq said the long march will start at noon tomorrow from city college maidan in Jessore. The caravan is destined to Ayodhya via Benapole.

The administration is believed taking all preparations including mobilisation of police and paramilitary force to put up barricade far away from the border.

AL joins JS

From Page 1 Col 5

mulgated the black ordinance but had also assented the bill after it was passed by only the BNP members.

"Moreover he is a branded anti-independence man," Nasir told newsmen standing in the lobby of the Leader of the Opposition's office.

He termed the long-boycott part of their movement against a black law, and not to cripple the parliament.

He termed the President's speech 'disappointing' as he (President) had trumpeted government 'successes' without pointing out its flaws.

Nasir said that the fate of Indemnity Bill must be settled in this session.

Supreme Court and the 'impugne' action of the Law Ministry in allowing two of the sub-judges to be superseded.

The respondents in the petition included the Law Minister and Bangladesh through the Cabinet Secretary, the Secretary, Ministry of Law, and the Secretary, Ministry of Establishment.

The petitioners included Syed Mahbub Ali and Khanda-ker Abdul Mannan, President and General Secretary of the Dhaka Ainjibi Samity.

Rule issued on govt

JP files writ challenging locking up its central office

Jatiya Party yesterday filed a writ petition with the Supreme Court challenging government action of locking up its central office, reports UNB.

Hasanuddin Sarkar, Acting Secretary General of JP submitted the petition before a division bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Anwarul Haque Chowdhury and Justice KM Hasan.

Police sealed the JP office at Kauran Bazar on December 16 last year reportedly at the request of the landlord to vacate his house.

On hearing the application, the court issued a rule upon the government to show cause why such action of locking up the JP office will not be declared illegal and unlawful.

Ferry services in Padma, Jamuna remain disrupted

MANIKGANJ, Jan 3: Some 34,000 passengers were stranded at Aricha, Daulatdia and Nagarbari ghats as ferry services remained disrupted due to dense fog for 17 hours since Saturday evening till this noon, reports UNB.

BIWTC sources said about 50 night coaches and more than 100 trucks from Dhaka, northern and western districts were stuck as ferries could not move from the three terminals due to lack of visibility in the Padma and Jamuna river routes.

Press Note

From Page 1 Col 7

The press note said: "An unpleasant and said incident took place at south Halihsahar Bandar Tila area of Chittagong Saturday afternoon. As a consequence of this, some more unpleasant incidents took place there again Sunday in which one person was killed and several others injured. The injured persons are under treatment at the hospitals."

"Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman, Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation Meer Mohammad Nasiruddin, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury MP, and Begum Rosy Kabir visited the spot.

The victims of the incidents would be provided with assistance.

The government hoped that all concerned quarters will extend their support to the law enforcing agencies in maintaining law and discipline. The government called upon all concerned quarters to extend their all out support in maintaining peace and discipline.

JP sit-in

From Page 1 Col 5

the Parliament workable but the government is playing a different role."

Moudud Ahmed said that the government action tarnished the image of the ruling party. He urged the government to behave democratically.

The JP leaders, however, did not say if they would join the session. Later, the JP source said that they would decide the issue on January 17 before the session resumes.

Among others Manrul Huq Chowdhury, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Reazuddin Ahmed Bhola Mia, Anwar Hossain Manju, Dr TIM Fozlee Rabbi, Advocate Fazlie Rabbi, Mahmudul Hasan and Maksudul Aziz Lama participated in the sit-in programme.

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