

Gen Manzur murder case

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brother of Nazreen Huq, was present in the courtroom during the hearing.

Protesting the appeal, court inspector Shajahan said that the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) does not permit such visits. Moreover, the case is to be heard in the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Chittagong and that the records and main files are lying with that court. Since the accused was arrested in Dhaka, he was sent to the nearest jail. Only the CMM's court in Chittagong can take any decision on the matter, the court inspector argued.

After hearing both sides the CMM passed an order allowing the petitioner to visit her husband in jail.

Our Chittagong Correspondent, quoting court sources, said that the hearing of the case would start in the court of the CMM once the investigators submit their report.

In that circumstance accused Kazi Emdad may be shifted to Chittagong to facilitate hearing of the case.

Meanwhile, CID officials continued with their investigations yesterday.

Senior CID officials are analysing the documents already gathered in connection with the case.

Police sources said that the statement Kazi Emdad made before a Magistrate in Dhaka last week under Section 164 of the CrPC differs with the one given before a military court in 1981.

General Manzur was killed on the night of June 1, 1981, two days after leading an abortive coup in which president Ziaur Rahman was slain.

Kazi Emdad, then a Captain, took custody of Manzur from senior police officials at Hathazari thana the same afternoon.

In the FIR filed on February 28, a copy of which was obtained by The Daily Star, the complainant, Barrister Abul Mansur, elder brother of Gen Manzur, said: "I, Abul Mansur, son of late Md. Najibullah of 1/1501, Eastern Tower, 20, New Eskaton, Dhaka do hereby lodge this FIR to the effect that my younger brother Ex-Major General M A Manzur on 1-6-1981 was taken in Army custody headed by one Major Kazi Emdadul Huq from police custody headed by the then Superintendent of Police, Chittagong and that he (my brother Maj Gen Manzur) was then taken to Chittagong Cantonment and there he was shot in the head from point blank range and thus was killed. It was absolutely a cold blooded murder."

"I could not lodge FIR earlier due to my inability to obtain copies of Post Mortem report and Death certificate which came to my possession very recently. This is the reason for the delay in lodging the FIR."

It is requested that investigation may kindly be started in no time so that the offenders may be brought to book.

Yours faithfully, Abul Mansur.

Meanwhile, the special team of investigators are trying to probe the authenticity of the autopsy report, found belatedly, which says Manzur was shot once in the back of his head and died immediately.

According to the autopsy report, there was a big gaping hole with ragged margin on the right occipital region.

The CID sources said yesterday that no fresh arrests were made in connection with the case.

6 lakh born into poverty during WSSD

COPENHAGEN, Mar 12: Some 600,000 children were born into poverty during the last 10 days, adding to the 1.3 billion people living in absolute poverty worldwide, a UN official said today, reports AFP.

James Gustave Speth, administrator of the UN Development Programme, stopped this afternoon a demographic clock set in motion at the start of the alternative summit running alongside the official UN poverty summit on March 3 and said it showed that since he had set it going, 598,072 children had been born into poverty-stricken families.

The "poverty clock" was set up at the global village empowerment in Copenhagen bringing together hundreds of non-governmental organisations.

"In a few minutes I will turn off the poverty clock display, but the clock ticks on," Speth said, shortly before turning off the display. "Let there be no misunderstanding: turning off the clock is more than a symbolic gesture. It is the public expression of a commitment to spare to efforts to help end poverty," he added.

The third premise, Begum Zia said, is to build commitment through consensus and enhance solidarity and partnership within and among nations for the benefit of mankind.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister, who is also the chairperson of the seven nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) said these three fundamental premises reflect the South Asian perspective.

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Of them, seriously injured Khaleq, 22, Kamal, 20, Saaluddin, 15, Abu, 18, Jamal, 21 and Rubel, 30, were admitted to the Adamjee Hospital.

According to reports, the fire that broke out around midnight from a short circuit, gradually engulfed the whole market.

A general diary (GD) was registered with Siddhirganj police station.

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China's huge economy and growing export potential meant it did not qualify as a developing nation.

US officials and Xinhua said negotiations on China's status would be based on the Uruguay Round international trade agreements that list criteria for developed and developing nations.

After China's WTO bid failed, Beijing stopped implementing a 1992 agreement to give US business more access to the Chinese market.

On Sunday, Xinhua said that because Kantor showed "positive attitudes" over the WTO, China agreed to examine re-implementing the 1992 agreement before the end of March.

Ex-DSP shot dead
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Harun was identified by the Awami League as its activist.

The Awami League at a press conference here blamed the activists of pro-BNP Chhatra Dal for the killing and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

Supporters of the Awami League and Chhatra League also staged demonstrations in different places of the city protesting the killing.

The Chhatra Dal denied the allegation. Doublemooring police said, he was killed by his rivals because of enmity. None was arrested. A case was filed with Doublemooring thana.

Harun who had been living with his family at Ambagan for a long time hailed from Jhalakati district.



Heads of state and government from all over the world and host of the UN World Summit for Social Development, UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali (9R on front row), pose at the Bella Centre in Copenhagen, Denmark Saturday — AFP photo

Dhaka proposes UN task force

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Telling the world leaders Bangladesh's experience and its programmes to rid itself of poverty, Begum Zia said, Bangladesh gives top priority to accelerated and sustainable social and economic development with focus on human resource development, participatory planning and poverty alleviation.

Begum Zia noted that despite limitations, her government has already been spending 28 per cent of national budget on social sectors, which far exceeds a developing country's commitment to the 20/20 formula.

The Prime Minister told the summiters that all our programmes have been made possible by the combined efforts of the government, NGOs and local communities.

She said the excellent work being done by some of them in the field of poverty alleviation especially in promoting self-employment among women in the rural areas by providing credit without collateral has produced very useful results.

The Prime Minister said the world summit that her government is keenly responsive to the potentials of NGOs like Grameen Bank and private efforts and is fostering a healthy climate for the growth of such initiatives.

The Bangladesh leader told the summiters that she has no hesitation in saying that even more important than the summit itself will be the follow-up actions.

Rio, Cairo, Copenhagen and later this year the World Conference on Women at Beijing provide us with a unique opportunity to be more responsive to addressing the most pressing needs of our times in the post cold-war era, she added.

In order to facilitate this work, Begum Zia placed three specific proposals.

She mentioned that at the regional level in the Dhaka Declaration adopted in 1993, the heads of state or government of the seven members of the SAARC have resolved to eradicate poverty in the region preferably by 2002.

This summit, the Prime Minister said, will have set some goals and to achieve these goals we must overcome our own limitations.

The odds, she said, may seem insurmountable, but for the sake of our future generation we have to start and start now.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister thanked Queen of Denmark Margrethe and the Government of Denmark for their gracious hospitality in this beautiful medieval city of Copenhagen, gateway to the Scandinavian countries and abode of exemplary social advancement.

MOU signed with Denmark for low-cost housing

COPENHAGEN, Mar 12: Bangladesh and Denmark have signed a memorandum of understanding to create a village based on low cost houses in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Slate Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman and Danish Minister for Social Affairs Karen Jespersen signed the MOU on behalf of their respective governments.

Earlier, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attended a dinner hosted by Queen of Denmark at the Christiansborg Palace last night.

The queen hosted the dinner in honour of the heads of state and government attending the WSSD summit.

Arab League, OIC reject contacts with Israel

CAIRO, Mar 12: The Arab League and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) said Saturday they reject any contacts with Israel until the Jewish state implements UN resolutions and pulls out of Arab land, reports AFP.

"The doors of the Arab League and the OIC will always be closed to Israel if it does not apply Security Council resolutions concerning Jerusalem and territories occupied" in 1967, said Said Kamal, deputy secretary general of the League.

"The OIC refuses any contact, including indirect contact, with the Israelis including pacifists," added Abdel Aziz.

1500 unions to come under FEP this yr: Saifur
SYLHET, Mar 12: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has said that this year some 1,500 unions of the country would be brought under the Food for Education programme of the government, reports UNB.

Addressing a meeting at the Sylhet Sanskrit College on Saturday, the minister called the Food for Education Programme an excellent educational expansion and poverty alleviation programme. The programme has generated tremendous enthusiasm in the rural areas.

Eighty per cent school-going children in the rural areas covered by the programme are now attending their classes, he said, adding that the dropout rate has also fallen to mere 10 per cent in those areas.

The Finance Minister was speaking as chief guest at the meeting organised by the Sylhet Ayurvedic and Unani College.

Swedish, Nepalese PMs call on Begum Zia

COPENHAGEN, Mar 12: Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson and Nepalese Prime Minister Manmohan Adhikari today called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia separately at the Bella Centre here, reports BSS.

During their separate meetings they discussed bilateral and international issues.

They also underlined the need for strengthening bilateral ties between the countries.

During her talks with Adhikari Begum Zia once again mentioned that Nepal should be included in the negotiation process regarding the Ganges water sharing and harnessing of the water resources so that three countries — Bangladesh, India and Nepal — could jointly harness water-resources of the Ganges basin for the benefit of their people.

Supporting Begum Zia's view, Adhikari said he would pursue the matter with neighbouring India to start tripartite water sharing process.

During her talks with Swedish Prime Minister, the two leaders described the relations as very good.

Begum Zia invited the Swedish premier to visit Bangladesh.

US will raise aid

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transform the relationship between donors and recipients to a relationship between partners," Gore added.

Gore did not say how much money would be affected by shifting more aid to independent groups, in the campaign dubbed "New Partnerships Initiative." He did not specify any groups.

A separate statement by the US Agency for International Development said the money would be directed to small businesses and to private aid groups from the United States and abroad.

A new emphasis in spending will be placed on "the decentralization of political power to local communities in the developing world," the agency said.

The Midnight File

Suharto in Zagreb for talks with Croatian leaders

ZAGREB, Mar 12: Indonesian President Suharto arrived in Zagreb today for talks with Croatian leaders but a subsequent trip to the Bosnian capital Sarajevo was postponed because of a shooting incident there. Suharto had been scheduled to visit Sarajevo today but he put it off until Monday after a machine-gun round pierced UN special envoy Yasushi Akashi's plane as it approached Sarajevo airport, reports Reuter.

16 more killed in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, Mar 12: Sixteen people were killed and 23 wounded today in violence in the Himalayan state of Kashmir, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. It quoted an official spokesman as saying 13 of those killed were Muslim insurgents fighting Indian rule. PTI said four of the dead were armed Pakistani guerrillas attempting to cross into India from Pakistan. Security forces retaliated when the guerrillas opened fire, PTI said, reports Reuter.

First day of hartal

of pickets attacked passing rickshaws near the GPO, harassed both the rickshaw-pullers and the passengers and snatched away their wallets, witnesses said.

Road communication across the country came to a virtual halt and attendance in most of the offices was thin. Train communication was disrupted in different areas and plying of transports from Dhaka and Narayanganj was irregular. Three domestic flights of the Biman were cancelled.

Although rickshaws were seen plying in most of the areas in the capital, no transports were seen in the old city areas in the morning.

Educational institutions, shops and private commercial establishments remained closed. Government offices and banks remained open with poor attendance and less activities.

Our Staff Correspondent in Chittagong reports: The hartal was observed in the port city, marked by stray violence amid massive picketing and cocktail blasts.

Pickets pelted stones when police attempted to resist them at Tigerpass, Bipani Bitan Crossing, Agrabad, CRB area and Moghailoli, witnesses said.

Police arrested around 30 pickets from different areas. Cocktails were exploded at various points and a number of rickshaws were damaged by pickets.

Cargo handling inside the jetty and delivery of goods to and from Chittagong Port remained suspended due to the hartal, port sources said.

All kinds of vehicles, except a small number of rickshaws, remained off the roads. Shops, markets, private offices, mills and factories either remained closed or operated poorly. Movement of trains to and from Chittagong was hampered, Railway sources said.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent reports: Pickets damaged some 15 to 20 rickshaws on the Dhaka-Narayanganj road yesterday while a number of cocktails were exploded in different parts of the town.

The Adamjee Jute Mills, Laxminarayan Cotton Mills and Chittaranjan Cotton Mills operated. Other mills, factories and private offices, however, remained closed. River transports did not ply.

Reports received from Jamalpur last night said that train communication between the northern and the eastern zones was disrupted for nine hours since pickets barricaded or damaged rail tracks at Islampur.

Seven trains including the Dinajpur-bound Teesta and Dhaka bound Ekata Express remained stranded at Melandah and Bahadurabad stations from 9 am to 6 pm. The trains moved after Railway technicians repaired the tracks.

According to reports from Sirajganj, all shops, commercial enterprises and educational institutions remained closed and the hartal was observed peacefully.

The Awami League has been compelled to enforce hartals to protect the rights of the people through waging a constitutional agitation across the country. Hasina said demanding immediate release of her party activists arrested during the hartal.

Harassment of people by shrimp firm owners alleged
By Staff Correspondent
Owners of shrimp firms in Batlaghat thana of Khulna district have been harassing the inhabitants of three unions in collusion with police, it was alleged yesterday.

The illegal Shrimp Culture and Terrorism Resistance Committee made the allegation in Dhaka.

The committee alleged that the young people of Bhandarote, Baliadanga and Amnirup unions could not stay in their houses because of the reign of terror let loose by the shrimp firm owners.

It said the armed bandits' of an influential group have been terrorising the villagers of these unions and they have also occupied agri-lands to culture shrimp there.

May people were injured and one Jaber was killed recently by the hooligans, but cases were filed against innocent villagers, it was alleged.

The committee's general secretary, Maksudur Rahman has urged the authorities to take necessary steps to stop the hooliganism of the armed bandits.

He demanded action against the culprits and release of the arrested villagers.