

Manzur murder hearing adjourned till Sept 9

The hearing on charge framing against deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad and four other retired army officers in the case relating to the murder of Major General Abul Manzur could not be held yesterday because of several petitions submitted by the defence seeking adjournment, reports BSS.

Abdus Salam, District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka adjourned the hearing after he heard all sides and fixed September 9 as the new date to take up the charge hearing.

Besides Ershad, the principal accused in this case, the four other accused are Major General (ret'd) Abdul Latif, Lt. Col (ret'd) Shamsur Rahman Shams, Lt. Col (ret'd) Mostafa Kamaluddin Bhuiyan and Major (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Haq.

Meanwhile, a criminal revision prayer was filed before the High Court division of the Supreme Court Sunday on behalf of Ershad challenging some portion of the order of the Sessions Court on August 16.

Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdur Razzak Khan who strongly objected to the adjournment prayed by the defence, also objected to the submissions made on behalf of Lt. Col (ret'd) Shamsur Rahman and Lt. Col (ret'd) Kamaluddin Bhuiyan to discharge them from the case as they were not involved and that their names were not in the FIR.

At one stage, the principal accused stood up and requested the chair to adjourn the proceedings since his

chief counsel Khandakar Mahbub Hossain remained busy in the High Court with the hearing of revisional prayer.

Khan said the prosecution had no objection to allow any number of defence counsels subject to accommodation of the court and clearance from concerned agencies. He, however, mentioned that the two sides during the previous day of the proceedings agreed on the number of lawyers to be allowed and, therefore, it was not fair to raise the issue again.

As for the complaints made on behalf of Ershad, the PP said none turned up to see the principal accused.

Major (ret'd) Kazi Emdad Hossain at one stage of the two hours hearing stood up and told the court that he was kept in a most inhuman condition in solitary confinement. "I am about to become mad and might commit suicide," he said adding, "I am being maltreated after refusing to become an approver."

PP strongly objected to the utterances of the accused and said, "This is outright false statement."

The judge in response to the prayers of the accused persons ordered that jail authorities will follow jail code regarding facilities to be provided to each of them in general and Kazi Emdad in particular.

Judge Salam cautioned journalists against misreporting and referred to a report appeared in a local daily about the proceedings on August 16.

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Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare was seen off by Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam at Zia International Airport yesterday. — PID photo

Malian President leaves Dhaka

President of the Republic of Mali Alpha Oumar Konare left Dhaka yesterday morning concluding his four-day state visit to Bangladesh, report Agencies.

President Konare and Madam Konare were seen off at the Zia International Airport by Commerce and Information Minister Shamsul Islam and Begum Shamsul Islam.

President Konare was given a 21-gun salute and two little kids presented bouquets to him and Madam Konare before they embarked the plane.

Joint Communique

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trade agreement and an agreement on cultural cooperation between Bangladesh and Mali.

At the official talks, it said, the two sides had wide ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues.

The two sides, it said, discussed and reviewed all aspects of bilateral relations and ways and means of enhancing existing cooperation in political, economic, cultural, trade and other fields.

They agreed that there existed great potential for mutually beneficial cooperation in the fields of agriculture and manpower exchange.

The two sides also agreed, said the communique, that the concerned ministries and agencies of the two countries should initiate action for expanding trade exchange as well as manpower cooperation between Bangladesh and Mali.

The two sides, it said, appreciated the proposal for studying the possibility of Bangladesh sending farmers for the development of agriculture sector in Mali and in this regard they agreed that a team of Bangladeshi experts would visit Mali on a fact-finding mission in the near future.

The two sides expressed their keenness to exchange visits by leaders, officials and experts between Bangladesh and Mali for promoting cooperation in economic, cultural and technical fields, the joint communique said.

In this context, it said, the ministers of primary education and health of Mali will visit Bangladesh.

The two sides agreed to encourage exchange of visits between the chambers of commerce and industry of the two countries, the communique said, adding, Bangladesh welcomed the Malian proposal to send Bangladeshi experts to visit the jute mill in Mali.

The mourning procession ended at Sayedabad, where another Namaz-e-janaza was held. Later, Badruddin was buried at Jurain graveyard.

Meanwhile, AL chief Sheikh Hasina, in a statement yesterday, announced a fresh programme to protest 'attack and repression' on party leaders and workers and reiterated the demand for general elections under a caretaker government.

The programme includes rallies and processions in the 14 thanas of the city today, a countrywide 'protest day' on August 31 and a public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city on September 3.

The AL, along with two other major opposition parties, had earlier called for a 32-hour countrywide hartal.

According to witnesses Rashed was gossiping with some of his friends in front of a laundry close to his house when the miscreants attacked him at about 6:45 pm.

Shabujbagh police are investigating the incident.

They succeeded

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woman for 17 years can have a gender problems," said analyst Usha Nayyar. "But we in India have this gender schizophrenia, and that is the backing of a millennium of discrimination."

India says at least 7,300 women have been killed by their in-laws so far this year for bringing inadequate dowries — officially illegal.

Some 11,600 were raped in 1994. Female foeticide and infanticide are common, and 40 per cent of women are illiterate.

Indira Gandhi, daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of Independent India, was the first leader to introduce equal wage legislation, but equality in the workplace remains an elusive dream for most Indian women.

"Indira rode on the coattails of her father," Nayyar said. "She and Benazir and Khaleda — they are all successes in a patriarchal society because of their male relatives."

Six killed in road accidents

At least six people were killed in separate road accidents across the country yesterday.

Our Sylhet correspondent reports: Two persons were killed and 10 others injured when the tempo in which they were travelling was hit by a speeding minibus at flashpur on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in the morning.

One of the dead was identified as Akhter Miah, 25, of village Hajipur of Narayanganj district.

UNB adds: In Savar, a minor boy and a teenaged girl were killed and eight others injured in two road mishaps.

Witnesses said Dalia, 19, was killed and eight men were injured when a Manikganj-bound minibus from Dhaka plunged into a roadside ditch near Kalampur in Dhamrai on the Dhaka-Aricha highway at about 9 am.

In the other accident, Rafiq, 8, was run over by another minibus near Balia in Dhamrai.

In Sirajganj, two people were killed in two road accidents on the Nagarbari-Bogra highway.

Sher Ali, 47, of Sujapur village in Raiganj thana died on the spot when a speedy truck ran over him on the highway.

In another accident on the same highway near Sherandah in Shahjapur thana, Rina, 9, died instantly when a Dhaka-bound truck knocked her.

AL mourns death

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after Asr prayers.

AL leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Amir Hossain Amu, Zillur Rahman, Mohammad Nasim and leaders of some other parties attended the janaza.

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College student

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Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto took the reins of the Islamic nation in 1986, seven years after her father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the country's former premier, was hanged.

Bangladesh's Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is the widow of former President Ziaur Rahman. Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga's parents were former prime ministers Sirima and Solomon Bandaranaike.

"In India, we have the mother goddess Cult," said India's former minister for women Margaret Alva. "If a woman can emerge in the power structure, there is no hostility towards her. But in the West, it's unthinkable — look at poor Hillary Clinton."

The Midnight File

China returning envoy to US

WASHINGTON, Aug 28: China is returning its ambassador to Washington, signifying improved relations as a controversial visit to Beijing by Hillary Rodham Clinton nears. Ambassador Li Daoyu was recalled in mid-June after President Clinton approved a visa for Lee Teng-hui, Taiwan's president to attend an Alumni gathering at a New York university, reports AP.

WB Vice President in city

World Bank Vice President Joseph Wood arrived here yesterday on a four-day visit, reports UNB.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Lutfullah Majid received Wood at the airport.

The visiting World Bank executive will discuss state of aid utilisation and reform programmes, with government leaders and officials.

Import trade

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sector under back-to-back LC arrangement.

The value of LCs opened for importing rice aggregated Tk 1,725.47 crore, closely followed by capital machinery and crude petroleum oil. Value of LCs for capital machinery was worth Tk 1,642.57 crore and for crude oil Tk 1,483 crore.

According to a recent publication of a chamber, the value of LCs opened for rice import during the first 11 months of 1993-94 (July 1993-May 1994) was only Tk 84.97 crore.

Comparing the 1994-95 import figures with those of 11 months of the previous year (1993-94), import of all major importables, including capital machinery, cement, POL (petroleum, oil and lubricants), textile fabrics and edible oil saw a sharp rise.

LCs opened for import of textile fabrics on back-to-back arrangement were worth Tk 6,337 crore in 1994-95 compared to Tk 4,349.31 crore during the 11 months of 1993-94.

JP programme

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Jatiya Party procession trying to enter the Central Jail area.

A small JP procession tried to enter the jail area from Nimtoli crossing at around 11 am, but police resisted it.

Half an hour later, a procession of some 300 JP activists led by Shamsuzzaman Mintu tried to break a police barricade at the Agha Sadeq Lane. The processionists hurled brick bats at police. The police lobbed three to four tear gas shells and the procession retreated.

None was injured in the incidents.

3 cops held

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death toll at three in the Sunday's police firing at Dinajpur town and said police were forced to open fire to control the violent mob, protect their own life and arms as well as government and private property.

A one-member judicial enquiry committee with the District and Sessions Judge of Dinajpur has been constituted Sunday to investigate into the incident. The committee has been asked to submit its report within 15 days.

The Deputy Commissioner of Dinajpur has constituted a three-member committee for fresh post-mortem of the girl, killed on August 24.

The Press Note said several thousand agitating people gheraoed Kotwali thana at about 11 pm on August 26 and threw brick bats demanding trial of the killing of the girl in the police van. Police, aided by BDR, dispersed the mob by using two rounds of tear gas shells.

The next day, a section of people in Dinajpur town brought out a militant procession. The mob tried to destroy government and private property at different parts of the town.

At one stage, they burned down four police outposts and four police vehicles. They also set fire to the Special Branch office of the district and led attacks on Kotwali thana seven or eight times and threw brick-bate and cocktails on police.

Ignoring repeated requests from police, the mob continued the disruptive acts. To maintain law and order, police used batons and tear gas. Failing to control the mob, police fired 10 rounds of shot at the instruction of the magistrate on duty that left three people dead. Some 20 policemen were also injured in the incident.

The district magistrate was forced to impose curfew in Dinajpur town to protect life and property of the people and restore law and order.

"There are 200 women taking part from Pakistan. Many come from the grass-roots, from villages. When they go home and share their information, that will have effect," said Nageen Malik, a representative of a Pakistani group called Bendari — Awakening — that offers legal, medical and financial help for women.

Meanwhile the Pakistan government said today it would not sign any document at the women's conference which contradicts Islamic teachings.

JU teachers' representatives polls today

By JU Correspondent
Election of teachers representatives to the Syndicate, the Academic Council and the Finance Committee of Jahangirnagar University will be held today.

Voting will continue from 9 am to 1 pm at the JU teachers club.

Two panels, one led by VC Prof. Amirul Islam Chowdhury and the other led by former president of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) Prof. Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman, are contesting the polls.

15 hurt as two trains collide in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 28: At least 15 people were injured when an express train collided head on with a goods train near the outer signal of Raipur station here today, reports UNB.

Rail officials said the accident occurred as the Rajshahi-bound Padma Express, missing its main track, entered a branch line where the goods train was waiting for clearance at about 5:40 pm.

The engines of the two trains were damaged and their drivers were seriously injured. Drivers AR Khan, 60, and MK Islam, 58, and three passengers were admitted to Raipur Health Complex.

The officials said the accident, caused by faulty points direction at the out signal, disrupted the rail communication, on the Sirajganj Ghat-Ishurdi route.

Crucial day

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Meanwhile, the local girls' team are scheduled to play two matches today. In the morning session, they will face the mighty Indians at 9:30 am, while Great Britain await them at 6 pm. The Bengali girls need to win at least one of the encounters to be sure of a place in the final.

Both the boys' and girls' finals are to take place tomorrow.

Child-lifting

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phobia has now spread to remote areas of the district. In the city, at least ten persons are being reportedly beaten by mob in a week on suspicion of child-lifting.

BSS adds: There is no basis behind the recent rumour and panic gripping the Chittagong metropolitan city over child-lifting.

After an extensive investigation launched by the Chittagong Metropolitan Police, it has been proved beyond any doubt that, in fact, there is no basis behind the rumour and panic over child-lifting, according to an official handout.

Photo-journalist assaulted in city

By Staff Correspondent
Some unidentified terrorists assaulted a photo-journalist of The Daily Star at the office of Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association (BPJA) yesterday.

The miscreants came to BPJA office at around 2:30 pm and scolded the office-peon when he wanted to know their identities. When Anisur Rahman, The Daily Star photo-journalist approached them, the gun-toting terrorists punched him in the face and abdomen. When other photo-journalists and local people chased them, they fled away firing two shots, said a BPJA press release.

Dinajpur

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travelling in a police van.

Deputy Inspector General of Police of Rajshahi range, BDR Sector Commander and political leaders of the district attended the meeting.

The DIG informed the meeting that order for transfer of the Police Super had already been issued while that for the transfer of 29 police officers were underway.

The meeting also decided to constitute an enquiry commission to probe into the Sunday's violence in which some 100 people were also injured and some police outposts and newspaper offices in the town were ransacked and torched.

15 injured in Rajshahi

Our Correspondent from Rajshahi adds: Fifteen persons were injured in a clash between police and the workers of the Awami League and the Left Front here yesterday.

The Awami League and the Left Front workers brought out separate processions in the evening to protest the incidents in Dhaka and Dinajpur.

The clash began at the Ganakpara crossing when police resorted to lathicharge and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the processionists.

The angry people also damaged a jeep of Bangladesh Biman and three shops.