

# Nuban murder: 4 interrogated

**Star Report**

Detective police yesterday interrogated four persons arrested on different charges from Sangsard Bhaban area to find out the motive behind the killing of Dhaka University teacher Nuban Ahmed recently, according to police sources.

Meanwhile, police could not yet find out the clue to the murder of Nuban Ahmed, who succumbed to stab injuries on December 26 after more than a week-long fight for life in hospital.

The investigation team of Detective Branch has already questioned more than 40 people including Nuban's relatives, local people of Mo-hammadpur, fellow teachers and vendors and shopkeepers around the spot of the attack on him at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsard Bhaban, said a senior police official.

Nuban, 35, a lecturer in Economics Department of Dhaka University who was stabbed by an unidentified gang on December 17 died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital on December 26.

None was arrested in this connection till yesterday, police said adding that they interrogated four persons who were arrested from Sangsard Bhaban area on charges of mugging, terrorism and suspicious movement. Detective police took over the case from Tejaog thana on December 30.

## DUTA memo to PM demanding stern action

**By DU Correspondent**

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding immediate arrest and trial of the killers of Nuban Ahmed and probe into alleged negligence in his treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Nuban Ahmed, a teacher of the DU, was stabbed to death by unidentified elements in the city recently.

Several thousand teachers, students, officials and employees of the university gathered near the Aparajeya Bangla on the campus at around 10 am and took part in a silent procession towards the PM's office.

The procession was stopped by police at the Bangla Motor crossing. A five-member team of the teachers and students then went to the PM's office and handed over the memorandum to an official there.

## Conducting polls EC's obligation, says CEC

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice AKM Sadeque yesterday said the Election Commission has no alternative to holding the national election before February 21, reports UNB.

"I'll not be happy to conduct the election without the participation of the major opposition parties. But we're going to hold the election on February 15 to fulfil the constitutional obligation," the CEC told members of Overseas Correspondents Association of Bangladesh (OCA) at his office in the morning.

Justice Sadeque said it is not the concern of the Election Commission to see which party is taking part in the election or not, but "I have tried my best to bring the opposition parties to the polls and deferred the election schedule thrice."

"I am still hopeful about the Opposition's participation," the CEC said.

Replying to a question, he said shifting of the election date beyond February 21 can only be considered by the Supreme Court if the President seeks its opinion by sending a reference. The Commission has nothing to do with it, he added.

Asked about reported excesses by some members of the Armed Force personnel and harassment of innocent people during arms recovery drive, the CEC said, during such a big operation a little mistake might take place. "I have asked them to conduct the operation carefully," he added.

Justice Sadeque said the law enforcing agencies will conduct operation in the universities in due time to recover arms.

## Arms recovery

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However, police officials here claimed that most of the armed terrorists had gone underground in those areas after the announcement of mop-up operations jointly by police, BDR and the army.

As a result, the drive has hardly become effective though efforts were on to nab the identified terrorists and recover illegal arms, police officials said.

Earlier, in secret raids at Raoson, police recovered an LMG (light machine gun), rifles and other sophisticated arms and ammunitions.

But during the on-going drive last week, police nabbed one terrorist Giasuddin Manik and recovered six rifles from his possession. Police had to face an exchange of gunfire to arrest Manik from Boakhali thana area.

Illegal arms including LMGs generally reach the mastans and terrorists in those areas from the Shan-tibahini men, according to the official sources.

The supply of arms from Shan-tibahini is routed through the northern parts of Chittagong, the sources informed.

## Textile workers barricade Tongi road

**By Staff Correspondent**

The textile workers of six government-owned mills enforced an hour-long barricade yesterday on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Tongi demanding their pending salaries.

The barricade from around 10:45 am to 11:45 am, stranded hundreds of passengers.

Talking to The Daily Star some union leaders of the six state-owned textile mills at Tongi claimed that salaries of all the workers employed in those mills were pending for few months.

Abdul Awwal, the publicity secretary of Meghna Textile Mill Workers Union, said that for the last few days they had been agitating through demonstrations and rallies for their salaries which were pending with the management for a period of between two to four months.

"The government, so far, has failed to meet our legitimate demand," he alleged.

## Pak business team in city

A high-powered business delegation from Pakistan arrived here yesterday afternoon on a four-day visit to explore trade and investment opportunities in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Jamil Mehbub Magoaon, Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Vice President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is leading the 12-member delegation.

Among the 64 operating industries in the CEPZ, 38 are owned by foreigners, 13 are joint ventures and 13 industries are owned by the Bangladeshis, pointed out the source. The source further said, DEPZ has 12 foreign-owned industries and one joint venture unit.

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The Awami League brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for today's hartal. — Star photo

## Jute, textile workers call 72-hr strike from Feb 14

Jute and textile workers called a 72-hour industrial strike and road-rail barricade from February 14 to press their longstanding demands, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a joint convention of jute and textile workers held here yesterday with Patkal Sramik-Karmachari Sangram Parishad Convenor Abul Basar in the chair.

Leaders of the Patkal Sramik-Karmachari Sangram Parishad, Suta-Bastrakal Sramik Federation, Bas-trashilpa Sramik League and CBA Coordination Committee of the Private Sector Jute Mills took part in the convention.

The meeting demanded reopening of the closed mills, regular payment of salaries and wages, implementation of the accords signed by the government with the workers several times and withdrawal of cases filed against workers.

The programmes announced from the convention also include gherao of mill offices on February 6 and torch processions in all industrial belts on February 11.

## 5 police officers leave for Angola

**By Staff Correspondent**

Five officers of the Bangladesh Police left Dhaka for Angola yesterday to join the United Nations Peace-keeping Force. The five-member team comprises a senior Assistant Police Super, three Inspectors and a Sub-Inspector. The team met the Inspector General of Police, ASM Shahjahan, before their departure.

## HC rejects writ

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schedule the ordinance was promulgated, the court said that the President can make an ordinance at any time when it is necessary.

Attorney General M Nurullah opposed the petition. He argued that the FBCCI has no locus standi as the federation is not an aggrieved person.

Meanwhile, the FBCCI, in a faxed statement sent under the signature of MH Rahman, secretary, expressed its reaction saying that "The Honourable High Court rejected the application without going into the merit on the ground."

The FBCCI press release also said that its executive committee would decide whether to appeal to the Appellate Division after the order is available in consultation with its legal advisors in due course.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed sought an order of stay of the ordinance pending hearing of 3 writ petitions filed by Nurunnabi Chand, Maidul Islam and SM Rab.

## Last ditch efforts

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The diplomat, however, declined to be quoted.

Another envoy pointed out that the US ambassador had been trying to facilitate a meeting between the two sides but with no positive results as yet.

The diplomats coming out of Hasina's residence at 9.30 pm after the meeting with her declined to respond to newsmen's questions.

Briefing newsmen on the meeting, Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman said the prevailing political situation came up for discussion.

He said the diplomats attached special importance to participation of all political parties in the coming general election to make it meaningful.

Awami League leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofael Ahmed and SAMS Kibria were present in the meeting.

Asked about the possibility of a solution, BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar said last night, "There would be no scope for a negotiated settlement after the deadline for filing nomination papers expired."

Talking to some newsmen at his Bailey Road official residence at 10 pm, Salam Talukdar said that his party was ready to go for the polls even without the participation of the major opposition parties.

Information and Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam was also present at that time.

"We must follow the Constitution and go ahead with the polls," Shamsul Islam said.

Nevertheless, efforts for further negotiations could be made provided the deadline for filing nomination papers, scheduled to expire at 5 this afternoon, is extended by the Election Commission. But the BNP is unwilling to request the EC for such a step and has left the matter to the commission, said a BNP negotiator.

When contacted, an EC official said that repeated shifting of the date was hampering their credibility and they were unlikely to defer the deadline unless they received any formal request from the major political parties.

## PM urges French envoy Encourage investors to avail scope

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the French entrepreneurs to avail themselves of the investment opportunities in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

She said there are numerous scope for investment by the French investors as Bangladesh's liberal policies have made all types of investment attractive and profitable.

## Office timings during Ramadan

Offices of the ministries and divisions in the Secretariat, offices connected with the Secretariat, directorates and other related offices, offices of autonomous bodies and corporations in the Dhaka metropolitan city during the Ramadan month will sit from 9 in the morning to 1:15 pm in the afternoon on week days with Zohr prayers break from 1:15 pm to 1:30 pm, reports BSS.

A government handout said divisional, district, thana and mossol offices in Dhaka and outside will sit from 10 am to 4pm from Saturday to Wednesday with Zohr prayers break from 1:15 pm to 1:30 pm. On Thursday these offices will sit from 10 am to 1:30 pm without any break.

The office timing of all offices, however, will revert to normal office hours after the Ramadan month.

Public utility services like telephone, railway, hospital public sector, industries etc will fix their office time during Ramadan in accordance with their own rules.

## PM urges French envoy

The Prime Minister was talking to newly appointed French Ambassador to Bangladesh Ms Renee Veyret who called on her at the PM office in the afternoon.

Begum Zia said her government believes that the private sector and individual enterprises could play a unique role in economic uplift. This is why we have adopted an open market economy and laid emphasis on the private sector."

She briefed the envoy on the government's liberal economic policy and investment climate in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said the government's programmes and investment in different social sectors have increased the literacy rate, enhanced per capita income, widened the scope for health services and reduced poverty.

She mentioned various programmes introduced by her government for women education as well as empowerment of women.

Begum Zia requested the envoy to encourage the French investors to invest in Bangladesh.

## Opposition to boycott polls under party govt

**By Staff Correspondent**

The Opposition will boycott the ensuing parliamentary election if it is not held under a non-party caretaker government, Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed said after a meeting of the three major opposition parties held here last night.

"We will continue the on-going agitation programme to realise the demand to ensure people's right to vote," Tofael told The Daily Star after the meeting held at the residence of Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad.

The meeting resolved that the Opposition would not take part in any unilateral elections, and called upon the people to boycott it, he said.

Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed and Mozaffar Hossain Palto of the AL, Moudud Ahmed and Anwar Hossain Manju of JP and Shaikh Ansar Ali and Abdul Quader Mollah of Jamaat represented their respective parties in the meeting.

## The Midnight File

### Russian DPM Chubais resigns

MOSCOW, Jan 16: Russian first Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais, architect of the privatisation programme, tendered his resignation today, the government press service announced, reports AFP.

## Abdel Rahman, 9 others to be sentenced today

**NEW YORK, Jan 16:** One of the biggest terrorism trials in US history is scheduled to end tomorrow with the sentencing of Egyptian cleric Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman and nine of his associates, reports AFP.

Federal Judge Michael Mukasey ruled all 10 will be sentenced on the same day.

The defendants were found guilty on October 1 of plotting to wage a war of urban terrorism because of US support for Israel.

During the almost year-long trial, jurors viewed 125 secretly reported videotapes, heard 200 witnesses, and scrutinized evidence from Emad Salem, a former Egyptian officer who worked undercover for the FBI.

While the prosecution believes the actual mastermind is Abdel Rahman, 57, the spiritual leader of the Egyptian fundamentalist Muslim group Jamaa Islamiya, it lacked sufficient evidence to prove this.

The cleric faces between 30 years and life in prison, as does El Sayed Nosair, founder of the 1990 assassination of extreme right-wing Jewish Rabbi Meir Kahane. The other eight defendants may face up to 20 years each.

The prosecution failed to determine the exact role of the group in the United States, how it is financed and whether any foreign countries were linked to the plot.

Abdel Rahman also has been suspected of planning to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The Sheikh was sentenced in absentia by a Cairo court to seven years hard labour.

## Advani resigns from Lok Sabha

**NEW DELHI, Jan 16:** The president of India's main opposition Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), LK Advani, resigned his seat in the lower house of parliament (Lok Sabha) today, Indian news agencies reported, says Reuter.

No details were immediately available but Advani was among seven senior political leaders charged earlier on Tuesday by India's federal police in connection with an 18 million dollars bribery scandal.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted Advani as saying charges against him were "baseless and motivated" but he was resigning to back his campaign against corruption.

## Aricha

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Prime Minister's office, expressed satisfaction over the price situation of the essential commodities.

It also urged the members of the business community to help keep the prices of essentials stable.

UNB adds: About 4,000 vehicles with some 20,000 passengers were stranded on both sides of the Jamuna river as the traffic congestion continued yesterday at Aricha, Daulatdia and Nagarbari ghats, official sources said.

At Aricha, the stranded vehicles made a six-kilometre queue for the ghat.

Meanwhile, a meeting on resolving the vehicles jam in ferry ghats was held at the Shipping Ministry yesterday with State Minister for Shipping Shahjahan Siraj in the chair.

The meeting observed that the overloaded trucks are creating jam by taking more time while loading an unloading in ferries.

## Raw jute

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lakh bales of raw jute during July-December period of the current financial year against Tk 131 crore by exporting 7.50 lakh bales during the same period of the previous year.

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Gross Profit (Tk in Mil)	118.17	116.14	97.29	15.38	13.62	11.50	2.37	2.06	2.70
Net Profit After Tax (Tk in Mil)	58.53	64.45	46.96	7.55	7.35	4.75	0.80	0.57	0.88
Earning Per Share (Tk)	73.25	77.03	52.18	133.75	172.75	105.60	19.94	14.19	22.11
Dividend Per Share (Tk)	30.00	30.00	25.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Stock dividend (Bonus share)	1.2				1.3				
Share Price (Market Value) as on 27.12.95	832.75			2,426.76			770.00		

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