

Kamal murder Charges framed against seven policemen after 9 years

MYMENSINGH, Aug 26: A court here on Tuesday framed charges against seven police personnel accused in the sensational Kamal murder case after a lapse of nine years, reports UNB.

The accused are: former OC of Kotwali thana Siraj-ud-Doula, Sis Rezaul Karim, Abdul Aziz and Hussenuzzaman, ASI Shahidullah, and constables Siddique Rahman and Jan Mahmud.

The prosecution in brief was that the accused policemen allegedly tortured Kamal to death in the town on November 4, 1989 and hid the dead body.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge Court fixed the next hearing of the case on September 15.

Transfer of power lines: REB GM assaulted by DESA employees

By Staff Correspondent

The General Manager of Rural Electrification Board (REB), Narsingdi-2, was assaulted allegedly by some employees at the Motijheel office of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) yesterday where he went there to take over 'operation charge' of some DESA power lines in Narsingdi following a government order.

According to a case filed by the REB GM, Sirajul Haq, with Motijheel thana, some members of the DESA employees unit followed him when he entered the room of the General Manager of DESA (South).

The employees abused him in front of the DESA GM and asked him to leave the office. Under pressure from the employees, the DESA GM also asked him to leave his room, Sirajul Haq alleged.

When he was leaving the building, the employees assaulted him inside the staircase and damaged his briefcase and walkie-talkie, the REB GM alleged.

The DESA employees union is opposing transfer of DESA power lines to REB.

As per the government order, the DESA has to transfer its lines to REB in areas where REB is in operation. The move has been taken as per conditions of a 170m US dollar ADB loan, sources added.

When contacted, KZ Azam, Member Engineering of DESA told The Daily Star last night that "DESA power lines in Monohardi and Shubur thana in Narsingdi will have to be transferred to the REB within the next two weeks as per the loan agreement."

Resignation

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"This is delaying the process," he said. "But we've been able to expedite the process through a special drive now going on."

The five-day special drive that began on Sunday, continued till yesterday with the BNP whips sitting at the Opposition Chief Whip's Sangsad Bhawan office by road to receive the resignation letters of the party MPs. More such letters were deposited at the office on the fourth day yesterday, said a BNP whip.

Delwar Hossain could not say how many of the resignation letters were deposited so far because some were handed over to him, some to other whips and some directly to the party chief. "The total number can't be counted unless all the deposited letters are put together and are tabulated," he explained.

He, however, added that "it's a good number... and our move is becoming fruitful. We're continuing to remind the MPs to deposit their resignation letters and taking necessary steps in this regard."

The Opposition Chief Whip hoped that he would be able to provide a concrete number of the deposited resignation letters after the current special drive is over today.

But party sources said the process of collecting the related resignation letters is unlikely to be completed by today as a good number of party lawmakers were still unwilling to deposit their letters before the 'controversial decision' is discussed in a meeting of the party MPs. Such a meeting is expected to be held before the Parliament goes into session on September 7.

The BNP lawmakers, opposing the "untimely" decision, may go by the move only after they are "compelled" by the party chief, the sources added.

Flag meeting

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continued the firing from 4:45 on Tuesday till 1:30 am today. Again, they resumed the firing at 7:30 am and continued until BDR raised a white flag seeking cessation of fire and a meeting.

Residents of the Hill border told the UNB correspondent that a Bangladeshi woman was killed and another minor girl injured in today's BSF firing. There was, however, no official confirmation of the casualty.

On Tuesday, one BDR jawan was killed and three others were injured in BSF firing. The border trouble was triggered by BSF, who backed intrusion of more than 1,000 Indian nationals into Bangladesh territory to obstruct repair work of a wall of the Hill railway station.

President

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in accordance with their own terms and conditions.

In these circumstances, he said, the press should tell the politicians that "it is not the way."

The President said the press has got a tremendous responsibility to the nation.

"The pressmen should provide correct information to the people, make constructive criticism of policies and actions of the government as well as of the Opposition, and highlight both sides of an issue so that the people can be in a position to ascertain facts and give their verdict in appropriate time."

About good governance, he said it guarantees dispensation of justice in a social system that ensures security and freedom of the individual, and equal opportunities for all without any discrimination.

President Shahabuddin said the role of media is to "expose the wounds that the vested interests try to conceal. The media thus play the vital role of a physician, although the patient may not always appreciate it."

The media, he observed, has got to be most persistent to establish a link between governance and its professional obligations.

The President said the necessity of press freedom is recognised on all hands and it has been provided in the Constitution of many democratic countries.

He said press freedom was guaranteed as a fundamental right in the Bangladesh Constitution also, but it was not given in full until February 1991.

Narrating the struggle for a free press since British rule, Justice Shahabuddin said the interim caretaker government in 1990 ensured full press freedom on February 26, 1991 by amending five relevant laws.

The amendments to the laws included the Special Powers Act, the Printing Presses and Publications Act, the Declaration and Registration Act, the Press Council Act, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Code.

He said these legislations, however, covered the print media only, and not the electronic media like Radio and Television.

The President said persistent demand of all political parties and the country's intelligentsia is for constituting an autonomous body to own and manage them, but mere creation of such a body will not ensure its independence.

"To prosper properly, what is essentially required is a team of men of character and integrity with high sense of responsibility and patriotism, and not sycophants or time-servers who change colours with the change of circumstances," he said.

The seminar, chaired by Prof Harunur Rashid, President of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, was attended by politicians, ministers, diplomats, academics and journalists.

UNB Chairman Amanullah Khan gave a welcome speech while Chief Editor and Managing Director Enayetullah Khan gave the vote of thanks.

Participating in the discussion, eminent lawyer Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed observed that a free press could immensely help good governance by objectively projecting facts and views.

He said: Media freedom is the mother of all freedoms. All other freedoms are dumb without freedom of the press. Media is an interpreter between the government and the people.

"There are many to be achieved in creating the electronic media is urgently necessary for the flowering of creativity and culture," Barrister Ishtiaq said.

He called for immediate repeal of criminal code, often abused against newsmen in defamation suits and also asked for publication of the Press Commission Report.

Former Chief Justice M Habibur Rahman said the most effective role of the media was to make the government transparent and accountable to the people.

BNP leaders M Saifur Rahman, K M Obaidur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Jamaat leader Maulana Matiuur Rahman Nizami, State Minister for Jute A K Fazul Haq, US ambassador John C Holzman, university teachers and members of the diplomatic corps were also present at the functions.

Bangabandhu

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carnage, deploying tanks at different points to back up the operation.

Reviewing the evidence of PW Jamil on post-August 15 developments, the SPP told the court that though the massacre had catapulted Khondker Mushtaque, a race among the generals to capture power started from the beginning and after a series of coups and counter-coups, General Ziaur Rahman finally succeeded.

He termed the Khondker Mushtaque government as fraudulent because it had not complied with the Constitution which was in force at that time.

About the book written by Lt Col (ret) Abdul Hamid, also a PW, which was referred by the defence counsel during the cross-examination, Huq said the book titled "Tintee Sena Abhyuththan and Kichhu Na Bala Katha" was a mixture of truth and untruth.

The court has to find out the truth in it, he pointed out.

The argument of SPP Serajul Huq remained inconclusive when the court was adjourned to resume on August 31 next.

Nothing being done for flood-hit people: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday accused the government of ignoring its responsibility and doing nothing to mitigate the sufferings of the flood-hit people, reports UNB.

"Country's situation is grave... many people are starving to death for want of food. But the government relief is yet to reach many badly affected areas and relief shelters," she said.

Begum Zia was briefly addressing a public gathering at Pallabi Model High School relief shelter while distributing relief goods among the flood victims in the late afternoon.

The BNP Chairperson also handed over two new rickshaws to the family members of Nurul Amin and Amena Begum who died in a wall collapse recently.

Earlier, she distributed relief materials to the flood victims at Ali Hossain School and Jhutpatti in Pallabi.

Referring to a Khulina incident, Begum Zia said a father was forced to give poison to his two children, being unable to feed them for two days. One of the children died while the other is in critical condition at a hospital.

She alleged that the ruling party is only busy in plundering relief goods, instead of distributing them among the poor. Many people, particularly children, are dying for want of food

and medicare, she said.

The country will have to be saved from the hands of the relief of Awami League. Otherwise, people's sufferings will multiply and country's development will be retarded," the BNP chairperson told the gathering.

She asked the leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations everywhere across the country to forget any misunderstanding and extend their help to the distressed.

The former Prime Minister said BNP has suspended all its political programmes considering the miseries of the flood-affected people and to carry out the party's relief operation.

Rubel murder

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probe into a chit recovered from his possession.

Police also talked with Thakur's wife who was present when police recovered the "chit" from an almirah at Thakur's residence.

However, the chit inscribed address of a coaching centre on one side and the address of Rubel's residence on the other side.

AC Akram Hossain, main accused in Rubel murder case, admitted that he wrote down the address of the coaching centre. But the investigators are yet to confirm who wrote down the address of Rubel on the same chit.

GCO rally on DU campus condemning JU incidents

By Staff Correspondent

Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), a conglomeration of some left-leaning student bodies, yesterday brought out a procession and held a rally on the Dhaka University campus protesting rape of three female students and assault of a teacher in Jhangirnagar University (JU) recently, says a GCO press release.

Addressing the rally at the Arts Faculty premises, the GCO leader demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits responsible for raping students and attacking a teacher, the release said.

Warning against any effort to hide the misdeeds and to divert the incidents, the leaders said recent developments in JU signifies, how the law and order situation has eroded in the country, it said.

'Govt will extend all-out support to farmers'

The advisory committee on fertilizer has decided to take all-out efforts in implementing post-flood agriculture rehabilitation programme of the government, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the committee held in the city with committee chairman and agriculture and food advisor to the Prime Minister M Anisuzzaman in the chair on Wednesday.

The meeting took the stock of production, supply, stock and price situation of fertilizer throughout the country and directed concerned officials to make full preparation to face the post-flood situation.

The meeting was informed that the government would extend all sorts of support to the farmers in procuring agricultural inputs, including fertilizer, to mitigate losses incurred by the flood.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed attended the meeting, said a official release.

Sajeda hands over bottle of contaminated mineral water to DOE

Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury has handed over the contaminated 1.2 litre mineral water bottle bearing the label of Duncan to the Director General of Department of Environment (DOE) for microbiological and chemical tests, reports BSS.

The bottle, found by the environment and forest minister herself last Monday in the city, had triggered concern among consumers and environmentalists who considered that such unsafe bottling might pose more risk to public health amid acute shortage of drinking water as the country is engulfed by a devastating flood.

DOE director general A R Khan yesterday sent it to director general Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution, responsible for issuing quality certificate to mineral water manufacturers, who in turn sent it to Science Laboratory for microbiological and chemical tests.

In presence of DOE and Duncan officials and journalists, the BSTI Director (Chemical) Monir Hossain Mollah sealed the contaminated bottle with the signatures of DOE and Duncan officials and sent it to Science Laboratory.

The DOE director general summoned the officials of Duncan at his office in the morning and expressed his concern at the bottling of such contaminated water showing the visible foreign elements inside the bottle.

The Duncan general manager Shah Alam and manager

Tk 490m required for relief operation

The Disaster and Relief Ministry yesterday estimated its requirements of Tk 490 million, 6 lakh metric tons of food grain and 57,000 metric tons of CI sheets for relief operation among the country's flood victims, reports UNB.

According to a report of the ministry, Tk 150 million is needed to distribute gratuitous relief and 75,000 metric tons of rice is needed to feed the affected people till flood water recedes.

The ministry till Wednesday disbursed Tk 35.1 million and 56,868 metric tons of rice among the victims.

The post-flood rehabilitation programme will require 1.5 lakh metric tons of rice for distribution through VGF cards. As the flood damaged 3,40,517 houses completely some 57,000 metric tons of CI sheets worth Tk 3,000 million and Tk 340 million will also be needed for house building grant.

To rebuild rural infrastructure, damaged by the flood, the ministry will need 2.25 lakh metric tons of wheat for Food For Work Programme and another 1.5 lakh metric tons under Test Relief Programme.

Need for improving quality of postal services stressed

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Post and Telecommunications Ministry yesterday stressed the need for improving the quality of service of the Bangladesh Postal Department, reports BSS.

The meeting, presided over by committee chairman Kamal Ahmed Majumder, reviewed the programmes of the department and it was informed that the total number of post offices in the country stood at 9245 and number of employees were 38,529 in fiscal 1997-98.

It was underscored at the meeting that an independent postal intelligence should be set up to probe various irregularities of the Postal Department.



Efforts have been intensified to protect DND embankment from the fury of flood yesterday. — Star photo

Tk 5,000m needed to reconstruct damaged primary schools

Flood causes crop loss worth Tk 14,220m

The current devastating flood lashing over the country so far caused crop loss amounting to Tk 14,220 million, said an estimation of the Ministry of Agriculture, reports UNB.

The loss includes paddy worth about Tk 12,420 million, vegetables Tk 520 million, jute Tk 240 million, aman seedbed Tk 600 million and other crops worth Tk 440 million.

According to the preliminary report, standing crops like aus, jute, broadcast aman, aman seedbed, transplanted aman, vegetables, fruits and other crops covering 7.6 lakh hectares of land in 377 thanas of 55 districts were inundated.

The report, however, said until flood water recedes, it is difficult to estimate the exact extent of damage caused to the agricultural production.

Meanwhile, Food Ministry officials said the flood will widen food gap of the country from 2.13 million metric tons to 2.87 million metric tons.

The initial target of food-grain production in 1998-99 was set at 21 million metric tons, including 1.9 million tons aus, 9.5 million tons aman, 7.8 million tons boro and 1.8 million tons wheat.

Due to recent flood, the officials said, aus production is expected to decline by 30 million metric tons and aman crop by 53 million metric tons.

To meet the gap, the government has planned to increase the amount of rice import to

300 thousand metric tons from original plan of 150 metric tons. Besides, it has also plan to import 200 thousand metric tons of wheat, said the officials.

The government has so far received indication of 465 thousand metric tons of food aid. In addition, there is a probability of getting 200 thousand metric tons of wheat.

Food Ministry officials said government's commercial import plan, domestic procurement and indication of aid against the distribution plan leave a gap of 1.36 million metric tons, including 0.26 million tons rice and 1.1 tons wheat.

Under the present foreign exchange reserve situation, commercial import of food-grain will be difficult by the government's own resources, said the officials.

Meanwhile, probable repair and rehabilitation cost for the damages of the Water Development Board infrastructures wrought by the current devastating flood has been assessed to 150 million US dollar.

Official sources said to save lives and property and to prevent further damage an amount of 10 million US dollar is required on emergency basis, Ministry of Water Resources said.

However, the amount may be much higher as the affected area is now under water and the assessment is purely on the basis of preliminary reports and eye estimation.

Correct estimate based on

field survey would be possible after recession of flood water, said officials at the Ministry.

They said the longest flood submerging majority parts of the country caused extensive damage to the infrastructure built by the WDB.

Some 93 km of embankment was totally damaged by the swelling water while 1,750km partially. Amount of probable expenditures for repairing these embankments is Tk 323 million and Tk 2,500 million respectively.

The number of totally damaged sluices gates, bridges and culverts is 15 while partially 700. Probable expenditure for those totally damaged is Tk 100 million while Tk 350 million for partially damaged.

According to the officials 20km embankment and river bank protection were totally damaged in the flood and 400km partially. Ten groynes and 150 closures were also damaged partially. The estimated repairing cost will be Tk 3,300 million.

According to the ministry officials, the flood damaged 20km irrigation canal fully while 400km partially. The estimated repairing expenditure is Tk 20 million and Tk 200 million.

They said 20 inlets were also damaged while 125 partially. Their possible repairing work will cost Tk two million and Tk five million respectively.

Repairing of roads and allied works of the WDB will also cost

Tk 200 million.

Another report says, an estimated Tk 5,000 million will be needed to reconstruct or repair the primary schools damaged by the current flood across the country.

Some 4,390 schools have been fully or partially damaged by the flood, according to reports received by Primary and Mass Education Division in Dhaka.

Officials said 8,488 schools had to be closed due to floods and 477 were being used as flood shelter centres.

In Dhaka division, highest 4,533 schools have been closed while 652 damaged and 205 are being used as flood shelter centres.

The numbers in Rajshahi division are 915, 1,642 and 186 respectively and in Chittagong division 3,027, 2,072 and 86 respectively.

Schools were not affected in Khulna division. But in Barisal, 13 schools were closed and 24 damaged.

However, the extent of damage could be assessed properly after reports from all the districts are available by August 31.

Husband throws acid on wife

A young housewife was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with severe burn injury after her husband threw acid on her in the city's Lalbagh area yesterday, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said Abul Hossain threw acid on her wife Aleya, 20, at her mother's residence at Nazimuddin road early this morning.

Family sources said the attack came after Aleya decided to file a case against her husband who married a second time without her consent.

Two firearms recovered, one held in Sathkira

Tala thana police recovered two firearms with ammunition and arrested one person in this connection from Fatkeghata Bazar under Tala thana of Sathkira district on Monday afternoon, reports BSS.

Police recovered one loaded revolver from his possession. Acting on his confession police recovered another firearm with four live cartridges from his house at village Khorda.

What's on today

Discussion and cultural function: A 2-day programme — discussion meeting and cultural function — begins today in observance of the 22nd death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Organiser: Nazrul's Birth Centenary Celebration Committee. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Shahbagh. Time: 5 pm.

Nazrul Academy programme: A three-day programme to mark the 22nd death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam begins today with a discussion meeting followed by cultural function. Chief guest: National Professor Dewan Mohammad Azof. Venue: Engineers' Institution auditorium, Ramna. Time: 5:30 pm.

Film show: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 'An Interview with Peter Greenaway' and two films — 'Prospero's Books' and 'The Pillow Book' on the concluding day of its retrospective of film by Peter Greenaway. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Rd. 9, Dhanmondi. Time: 4 pm, 5 pm and 7:15 pm respectively.

Science fair: The annual science fair of the Maple Leaf International School will be held. Venue: School premises, Rd 7/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 8 am to 3 pm.

Installation ceremony: The 16th Installation ceremony of the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka will be held. Chief guest: World Bank Country Director Pierre Landell-Mills. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 7:30 pm. The installation ceremony will be preceded by the club assembly at 3 pm at the same venue.

More allocation for flood victims

The government yesterday sanctioned 1,450 metric tons of more rice and Tk 16.50 lakh for some flood affected districts, reports UNB.

Disaster Management and Relief Ministry allocated 200 mts of rice for each of Mymensingh, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur and Gopalganj, 100 mts of rice for each of Comilla, Barisal, Pabna, Noakhali, Laxmipur and Shariatpur, and 50 mts for Moulvibazar district.

The ministry also allotted Tk three lakh for each of Brahmanbaria and Gopalganj districts, Tk two lakh for each of Mymensingh, Comilla and Pabna, Tk one lakh for each of Barisal, Laxmipur, Noakhali and Shariatpur, and Tk 50,000 for Moulvibazar district.

Chehlum

The Chehlum of renowned economist, Director, Board of Directors, Bangladesh Bank and retired Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Alhaj M Mohiuddin will be held at his village home in Muktagachha thana in Mymensingh tomorrow, after Juma prayers.

Noted TV newscaster and director Public Relations, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Rashida Muhiuddin is the eldest daughter of late M. Mohiuddin.

The days programme include Qurankhuni, *doa mahfil* and feeding of orphans and destitutes.

Obituary

TD Rozario, one of the presidents of the Hindu, Buddha, Christian Oikya Parishad, died of a heart attack and old-age complications yesterday morning at his Tejgaon residence. He was 73, reports BSS.

Rozario is survived by his wife, two sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He will be buried on Friday afternoon at Tejgaon Cemetery after the return of his son from abroad.

Real Estate and Engineering Division
Agrani Bank
Head Office
Motijheel, Dhaka
Re-Tender Notice

Re-Tender Notice No REED/Engineering/425/98 Dated: 18-08-98

- Tenders in sealed envelopes are hereby invited from reputed sole distributor, agent, importer and bonafide suppliers of airconditioners for supply and installation of 18 airconditioners of different sizes and capacities for use as accessories of computers in computer rooms for branches of Agrani Bank in Dhaka city and branches in district towns outside Dhaka.
- Tenders will be received in tender box kept at Real Estate & Engineering Division, Agrani Bank, head office, Bhaban Number 1, 7th floor till 3 PM on 09-09-98 and will be opened on the same day at 3-15 PM in presence of participants in tender (if anyone remains present) by tender committee.
- Tender schedule can be procured till 08-09-98 on payment of Taka 500/- (five hundred) only in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order non-refundable from Engineering Office of this Division.
- Earnest money at the rate of 2½% (two and a half per cent) of quoted price in the form of Bank Draft/ Pay Order issued by any scheduled bank will have to be deposited in favour of Head Office, Agrani Bank, Dhaka with tender.
- Incomplete tender and tender without usual earnest money will be treated a outright rejected. Any penning through/rubbing in tender will not be acceptable. The bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or invite re-tender without assigning any reason.

DFP-18118-23/8
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Mazedur Rahman
Deputy General Manager.