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Shafi murder Three DB men refuse to budge

By Staff Correspondent

Three Detective Branch personnel arrested in connection with the Jalal Ahmed Shafi murder case will be produced in the CMM's court today after completion of 13 days in police remand in three phases.

Investigators said inspector Ziaul Ahsan, havildar Belal and constable Rob continued to deny their involvement in the murder. CID investigators said that they would not seek further remand of the three.

Investigators told The Daily Star last night that they got 'lot of evidence' against them which would help them to prove their involvement in the killing.

Another sub-inspector Shajahan was produced before the court on Tuesday as he agreed to give confessional statement before the CMM's court. The SI

BNP gherao

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Activists will gather at Gopibagh crossing at 11 am and march towards the PDB office. JP will also submit a memorandum to the PDB authorities.

Leaders and supporters of IOJ will assemble near Purana Paltan Jama Masjid and parade towards WAPDA building at 11 am.

In observance of the gherao programme, Jamaat will hold a public rally at Purana Paltan crossing at 3 pm.

Besides, Jagda, Democratic League, PNF and NDA will gherao the PDB office.

Opposition sources said they have taken massive preparations to make the gherao programme a success.

Meanwhile, a joint meeting of the city BNP and its front organisations was held yesterday with Sadek Hossain Khokha MP in the chair. The meeting elaborately discussed today's gherao programme and urged people to take walks of life to join it.

JP city unit and its front bodies also held a joint meeting yesterday with unit president Saifur Rahman in the chair.

IOJ leaders in a joint statement called upon the people to expedite the 'oust-government' movement by making today's programme a success.

Miandad

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of dispute between Miandad and some of his players.

Miandad said the family commitments meant he would not be in a position to continue his assignment as coach. The resignation was tendered with immediate effect.

Former Pakistan captain Miandad said: "I wish the team good luck in the World Cup and hope and pray that the little returns to Pakistan."

PCB officials were not immediately available for comment. But media reports over the past few days have highlighted disputes between Miandad and senior players.

"I had been thinking of resigning for the last 48 hours after whatever had been appearing in the media which gave prominence to players' claims," Miandad said.

Miandad was appointed last September on a contract which was to have run until the end of the World Cup in June. (Details on Page 13)

later changed his mind. One of the investigators claimed that sub-inspector Shajahan had told the investigators that he saw someone asking a constable to take Jalal to the rooftop.

"We are dealing with someone who knows the investigation technique and motive of the criminals," a CID official said yesterday.

When asked why AC Humayun Kabir was released from the CID office after long questioning, he said, "We came to a conclusion that he was not involved in the murder."

When asked why officials who attempted to defy a CID call for questioning were released without any punishment, a CID high official said, "They are under the DMP Commissioner and it depends on his decision."

Meanwhile, CID investigators interrogated Shafi's wife Halima and his two sons Abbas and Farooq.

The decomposed body of driver and DB informer Jalal Ahmed Shafi was discovered from the rooftop water tank at the Minto Road Detective Branch office on March 25.

DU position

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The weakest aspects of the university are financial resources, research output, international publication and internet band width per student, the survey said.

In the survey conducted by Asiaweek last year, DU was below Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) of India and Punjab University of Pakistan.

According to the latest survey, DU is above some of the reputed universities of the region including JNU, Punjab University, Delhi University, Colombo University, National University of Malaysia, Science University of Malaysia, UIN Ar-Raniry of Indonesia, Mahidol University of Thailand, Pusan National University (South Korea), Monash University of Australia, Macquarie University (Australia), Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand), City University of Hong Kong, Gadjah Mada University of Indonesia, Vietnam National University, De La Salle University of Philippines, Ritsumeikan University of Japan and Chungnam National University (South Korea).

Sonia

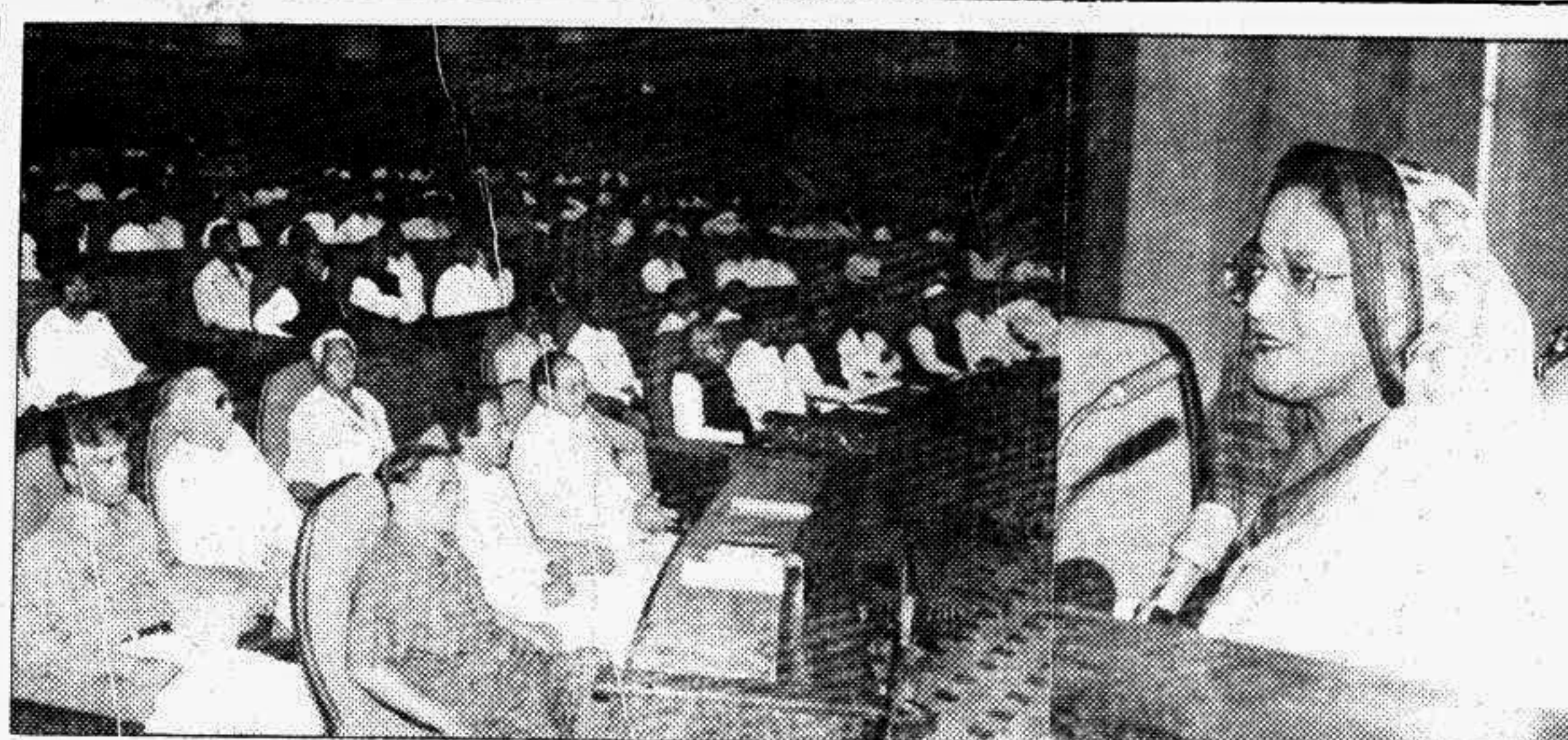
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attempts to secure political support by unfair means. Tension was also running high outside parliament, where about a dozen deputies of Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) shouted slogans against Sonia.

Waving a banner with the words 'Go Back', they chanted: "Sonia Go Back. Go back to Italy. India will not be enslaved again. A foreign-origin woman cannot rule India."

Barely an hour later, Congress deputies and party workers gathered at the same spot to shout: "Long live Sonia" and "Down with the BJP".

One BJP deputy, Ganga Charan Rajput, issued a statement in which he said: "There will be tears in the eyes of our great freedom fighters the day Sonia is sworn into office."



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the first conference of the elected pourasava chairmen at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the city yesterday.

Opposition trying to weaken local govt bodies calling hartals: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has criticised the Opposition saying that they are pursuing an undemocratic way to weaken local government bodies and block development, reports UNB.

The opposition parties are unitedly calling hartals when the government is taking steps to strengthen local government bodies to ensure development at grassroots level," she said at a conference of Pourasava chairmen at ICC in the city yesterday morning.

The newly elected chairmen of different Pourasavas of the country attended the conference.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Local Government Division Secretary Badiur Rahman, Manikganj Poura Chairman Ramjan Ali and Gopalganj Poura Chairman Mohammad Ali Khan also spoke at the conference. The only elected woman poura

chairperson, Amena Begum of Sengarchar Pourasava, presented bouquet to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister said Pourasava is an important local government unit and by strengthening this unit rural economy and development can be accelerated. She asked the poura chairmen to render sincere and dedicated service to the people.

You should remain alert so in no way the development work is hindered. We want to decentralise the economic activities and development. The role of Pourasava is very much important in this regard," she said asking the poura chairmen to work for the welfare of the people.

We are working for development, but instead of giving support the opposition parties are creating hindrance," she said criticising the opposition's hartal calls which, she said are

aimed "only to protect the killers."

She said there is a Parliament and the government allows the opposition to discuss anything inside the House even though the BNP, Jatya Party and Jamaat are calling hartals one after another.

The Prime Minister said despite the opposition call for boycott the people from all walks of life joined the Pourasava election and cast their votes in a free and fair atmosphere.

The voter turnout was massive in the Poura elections, she said. Though it was not political election members of BNP, JP and Jamaat also took part in that and got elected, she added.

The Prime Minister said Pourasava is a responsible unit of the local government tier and suggested increase of the earning of the Pourasavas, particularly revenue collection.

HC admits appeals against verdict in Bangabandhu Murder Case

Four separate appeals against the verdict of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge on the Bangabandhu Murder Case have been admitted by the High Court yesterday, reports UNB.

The appeals of convicts Lt Col (Retd) Syed Farooq Rahman, Lt Col (Retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Lt Col (Retd) Mohiuddin Ahmed and Major (Retd) Bazul Huda came up on the list for admission before a HC Division bench.

The counsels of four appellants Advocate Abdur Rezaq Khan, Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman and Advocate Mohammad Afzal Hossain appeared and prayed for adjournment.

The bench comprising Justice Mohammad Golam Rabbani and Justice Muhammad Latifur Rahman rejected the prayers of adjournment and admitted the appeals and death reference of the case.

On November 8, 1998, the Sessions Judge, Dhaka, after a lengthy hearing of the Bangabandhu Murder Case sentenced 15 accused to death. Four of the 19 accused, including former state minister for information technology Tahaqur Rahman, were acquitted of the charges.

The four appellants filed appeals on November 15, 1998 and the appeals were admitted yesterday.

Nasim

From Page 1

foundation of police camps at Shyamur in Kushtia, Bamundi in Meherpur and Jamjami in Chuadanga.

The minister, accompanied by Inspector General of Police AYBI Siddiqui and Additional IGP Abdur Rahim, flew in the region to inaugurate the police camps.

A total of 150 such camps are being set in 10 southwestern districts to launch a continued combing operation against the outlawed parties.

Nasim, in an emotion choked voice, said: "The man whom you kill is your father or brother. Why kill a brother or father? Shun the path of blood, none remains in this world after doing politics of arms and blood."

He also warned the terrorists that they would be hounded out even from under the ground if they didn't surrender their arms in public and lead a normal life.

As thousands of people thronged to listen to the new Home Minister and many of them complained that they all ways live always amid a grave fear of insecurity, Nasim sought their cooperation in the anti-terrorism drive.

"The operation, which will continue until the last member of the terrorist groups is brought to book, cannot succeed without your cooperation," he said.

While inaugurating the police camps and addressing rallies, the Home Minister also warned the law enforcers to discharge their duties properly. "He who will perform well will be awarded. But he will be dismissed who will fail. 'I'll not hear any excuse. You'll be given all facilities,"

Tk 22 cr

From Page 1

ance Association, the Association of the Listed Companies, DSE and CSE would contribute Tk two crore each.

"All these participants will have representation on the board but the depository will be headed by a nominated person," the governor was quoted as saying.

Farashuddin said that there was nothing to be panicked about the present market situation. "The economic indicators are good. But the share market is not reflecting the actual health of the economy." He said the private banks marked an impressive deposit growth.

He asked the DSE to accelerate reforms and expand its membership for creating a strong capital market for the country.

The DSE presented its proposals for the development of the market.

Chairman of the Standing Committee Professor Ali Ashraf said that the government would consider DSE's proposals and formulate a capital market friendly budget.

Ammonia

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"For duty, we go to the area covering our noses and sometimes even wearing masks," he said.

When contacted, an official at the fertiliser factory said the GFC routinely discharges ammonia into the river Shitalakhya. But as a standard practice, it retains waste in a pond on the factory premises between November and April. With the start of the rainy season, the waste is slowly released into the river.

The ammonia possibly spread as pond level in the reserve pond fell below its standard level due to the persisting drought like situation, the official said.

The state-owned GFC, a subsidiary of BCIC, produces 0.4 million tons of urea.

Ershad's detention Review petition on judgement

A review petition was moved yesterday before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court regarding its March 1, 1998 judgment that held invalid the order of detention of former President HM Ershad on December 11, 1990, reports UNB.

Attorney General Mahmudul Islam moved the review petition while Dr Kamal Hossain as special counsel made submission in support of it.

Indian army

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Bhagwat in December, accusing him of releasing details of India's top secret nuclear submarine project and flouting cabinet control of the military.

Bhagwat responded angrily, alleging that the defence minister was linked to illegal gun-running in India's troubled northeast.

During Saturday's parliamentary confidence debate, which the government lost, former premier HD Deve Gowda attacked India's current deputy army chief over arms purchases, and also accused him of altering his service record.

The commanders' conference on Monday reacted to Gowda's charges by telling politicians to keep their noses out of military affairs.

"Army commanders felt that the right to unfettered speech in parliament was being abused to settle political scores and their names were being needlessly smeared," said an official who attended the conference.

"Matters that affect the reputation of officers should not be bantered around in public," added retired Lieutenant General NR Foley, an appointed member of parliament.

BNP: Power situation

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The BNP central office in the city yesterday evening was also attended by BNP Secretary General Abdur Mannan Bhuiyan, BNP leaders and members of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury and Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, Jafrul Ahsan, Gayeswar Roy, Shahjahan Siraj and others.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said that whenever a disaster in power sector took place, the government termed it 'sabotage'.

Moreover, he said, the Awami League government of late realized that it was impossible to import electricity from a 'power-deficit country like India'.

The former BNP minister said there had been 2,872 hours of load-shedding during 1996-97 fiscal year while 763 hours in 1994-95.

"If 2150 MW could be the actual average production of electricity in 1995-96 why it declined to 1900 MW average after increasing the generating capacity?" Mosharraf questioned.

Replying to a query he said the planned foreign aid for improving power sector was stopped because of the inefficiency, mismanagement and system loss of the Ershad government.

The system loss was 41.3 per cent at the end of Ershad regime, he told the newsmen.

Bomb attack

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bomb on the bus and later set fire to it.

Of the injured, seven were admitted to Dhaka CMH and later shifted to DMCH where Dulal and Wahiduzzaman succumbed to their injuries yesterday morning.

The bodies were sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Hearing on suo moto rule

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BNP Secretary General Abdur Mannan Bhuiyan were also present in the court.

The hearing will resume tomorrow.

The Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Mohammad Golam Rabbani and Justice Md Latifur Rahman on February 15, 1999 issued the suo moto rule upon AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman, BNP Secretary General Abdur Mannan Bhuiyan, secretaries of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

By the rule the court directed them to show cause as to why the pro-hartal and anti-hartal activities should not be declared as cognizable offence and the Criminal Courts and the Police should not be directed to take action accordingly and pass such other or further order or orders as the court deems fit and proper.

The court also appointed Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan and Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar as amicus curiae.

"Calling and holding of hartal by the political parties resulting in compulsion of stopping of all works throughout the country, committing murder, causing injuries to persons and restraining the citizens upon threat expressly or im-

pliedly from carrying on their activities or from practicing their vocation and destruction of private and public properties and causing national loss are neither permissible under the Constitution of our country nor under any other law," Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan said.

He said, "Anti-hartal activities are those activities which are generally carried out by the police to prevent the pro-hartal people from committing an offence and hence such activities i.e. anti-hartal activities cannot be regarded as illegal."

He also submitted that a court of law cannot remain unconcerned about the illegal activities which are being carried out by the police to prevent the pro-hartal people from committing an offence and hence such activities i.e. anti-hartal activities cannot be regarded as illegal."

"The court may provide valuable guidelines as to the proper construction of the terms 'hartal', 'pro-hartal activities' and 'anti-hartal activities', he said.

Barrister Khan argued that calling of hartal cannot be a fundamental, constitutional or legal right as there is no such right in Bangladesh and the same also violates the fundamental rights of the citizen.

"The High Court Division may step in and intervene, exercising the inherent jurisdiction provided by Section 561A

HC: AB Bank MD

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Mahmud said, the Bangladesh Bank directed the AB Bank to serve the notices. After receiving the copy, the MD made only one copy of the letter which was sent to his legal advisor Barrister Rafiqueul-Huq.

Two of the directors later wrote to the bank asking for a copy of the letter, a plea turned down by the bank saying that the copy could only be made available under the direction from the central bank.

Mahmud then said that these are matters which form part of the proceedings during the admission of a case. The copy which was not made available to anyone except the legal advisor was submitted as part of the annexures when they filed the case.

All these correspondences with the bank meant correspondences with the MD, Mahmud pointed out.

When the letter was submitted as part of the annexures while filing the petition, it issued a letter to its legal advisor.

"We understand that the petitioners may have annexed a letter dated 4.2.98 of the Bangladesh Bank addressed to us which was not copied to anyone else. We gave you a copy this letter to you as our retained legal advisor, and it forms a legal professional communication with you. We trust and expect that the copy so annexed was not obtained from you," Mahmud said quoting the letter issued by the bank's CEO to its legal advisor Barrister Rafiqueul-Huq.

In reply to the MD's letter, Huq said that the MD was a servant of the bank and had no legal authority to write such letters.

KZ Alam appearing as lawyer for two petitioners said that the ground of the petition was that the MD was not given the authorisation from the board to serve the notices. "The MD merely carries out the order of the board. Since the MD was not authorised, so he could not

issue the notices."

Justice Ebadul Huq at this stage asked Alam if the MD required authority for carrying out day to day affairs of the bank. "And, who represents the bank under the law," the justice asked. "Well it may be the board of directors," responded Alam.

"But he (the MD) can sue and be sued," the judge said. "Can you show any law that prohibits the CEO to act?" the judge asked.

Barrister Rokunuddin Mahmud at this stage argued that the grounds of the petition was not maintainable since the MD had the authority and acted within his jurisdiction.

"The matter is crystal clear. Money was obtained under fictitious names. When caught they admitted it and said we will give it back but they failed. And when notice was served they are saying it was not served legally."

"They are now saying in the court that they would return the money under any condition. They don't have to say here that they will return the money. If they want to, they can give it back. It does not require the consent of a court."

The barrister concluded by saying that the desire to pay-back the money was always there but it was never translated into action.

BDR, BSF hold flag meet on Daulatpur border

KUSHTIA, Apr 21: Sector commanders of BDR and Indian BSF had a lengthy flag meeting on the Daulatpur border today following Tuesday's clash between the border forces of the two countries that left six Bangladeshis dead and about 60 injured, reports UNB.

BDR sources said the meeting started at 11:20 am continued till 6:30 pm. But officials refused to divulge the outcome of the meeting.

Colorado teens gun down

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whose names were not released, apparently belonged to a clique of outcasts called the 'Trench Coat Mafia' who wore long black coats, boasted of owning guns and disliked blacks, Hispanics and football players.

Davis said that the motive for the attack was unknown and that school officials had had no reports of trouble from the students.

The sheriff said 25 people may have been killed, students and teachers alike. But by early evening, officers had yet to remove any bodies because of the danger of explosives and the need to preserve evidence. FBI agents and police SWAT teams slowly made their way through the building.

"It's just going to take us some time because of how many rooms we have bodies in," Davis said.

At least 23 people were hospitalised, most of them with gunshot wounds. One girl suffered nine shrapnel wounds. At least 11 were in critical or serious

condition; one was in guarded condition.

Littleton, a middle-class suburb of Denver with a population of 35,000, is the latest American community shocked by school violence. Since 1997, shootings have led to calls for tighter security and closer monitoring of troubled students.

Two people were killed in an attack at a school in Pearl, Mississippi; three in West Paducah, Kentucky; five in Jonesboro, Arkansas; and two in Springfield, Oregon.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton said: "Perhaps now America will wake up to the dimensions of this challenge, if it could happen in a place like Littleton."

The attack began at 11:30 am MDT (1730 GMT). The killers, wearing fatigues and trench coats, started firing in the parking lot and then entered the school. They shot as they walked into the cafeteria, then walked upstairs to the library and continued firing with what were thought to be semiautomatic weapons and a shotgun.

Advertisement for 'ডেসার জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি' (Deser Urgent Notice) regarding a legal case. It mentions a court order and a deadline for filing a response.

Advertisement for 'Ammonia' fertilizer. It features a large '2000' graphic and text in Bengali describing the product's benefits and availability. It includes contact information for the distributor.

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