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Bangabandhu Murder Case HC asks prosecution to wait for their turn

A High Court bench yesterday asked the prosecution to wait for the serial order for 'death reference' hearing of the Bangabandhu Murder Case, reports BSS. The prosecution mentioned the death reference in the High Court 15 months after a lower court sentenced to death 15 ex-army officers for the 1975 killing. The division bench comprising Justice MM Ruhul Amin and Justice Mohammad Abdul Matin, which deals with such cases told the prosecution counsel to 'mention' the case after the disposal of the other such references pending in their court. 'But you are free and at liberty to mention the case to any other bench of the High Court,' Justice Amin told Special Public Prosecutor Anisul Haq. Later, Serajul Haq, chief of the prosecution team, along with Attorney General Mahmudul Islam moved to another bench comprising Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin and Justice S K Sinha, who advised them to 'mention' the case to any other senior bench because of its pre-occupation with pending cases. It was learnt that the prosecution might mention the case tomorrow to a senior bench or again request the special bench of Justice M M Ruhul Amin and Justice Matin to take up the death reference for hearing on consideration that the incident took place long ago. Supreme Court officials said that currently 14 death references were pending in the High Court Division, which is now hearing the cases of 1996. Yesterday's prosecution move came two weeks after they planned to 'mention' the Bangabandhu Murder Case in the High Court. After 149 days of hearing, Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golam Rasul, now retired, sentenced the 15 out of 19 accused to death on November 8, 1998 for killing Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members on August 15, 1975. But only four of the convicts, former lieutenant colonels Syed Farook Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan and Muhiuddin Ahmed and ex-major Bazul Huda, are now in jail awaiting the higher court judgement in person. The rest including a key plotter, sacked lieutenant colonel Khondokar Abdur Rashid, led Bangladesh soon after the 1996 general elections. The four convicts appealed to the High Court against the verdict of the lower court. But High Court officials said the defence so far did not appear to seek hearing on their appeals.

PM opens book fair

From page 1 over by educationist Prof Anisuzzaman. The prime minister said people want to have a peaceful life and environment. For flourishing knowledge and science, for economic development and political stability, peaceful environment is a must. 'We need cooperation from all in creating such an environment in the country in which people can return home from their workplaces in peace and security. The prime minister called upon people of all strata, including teachers, students and political leaders, to give lessons in the mother tongue and uphold prestige of the language at all levels. 'We want that every language of the world flourish with its own glory. By shedding our blood for language, we've taught the world how to love mother tongue.' Hasina said the government has decided to set up a Mother



Unauthorised food shops have sprung up on the Karwan Bazar Railway Station premises right under the nose of the authorities! — Star photo

Move for pvt port in Ctg Dockers warn against 'conspiracy'

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Feb 6: Chittagong Dock Bondor Srani Karmachary Parishad — a conglomerate of 22 trade unions (TUs) in a meeting with CPA (Chittagong Port Authority) chairman Golam Robani here today warned that it would go for agitation movement if there is any plot to destroy the port. In the meeting the parishad leaders expressed their stand against the proposal for installation of a private port at Karanaphuli estuary by SSA (Stevedoring Services of America) and termed the recent proposal of Humburg Port Consulting for taking the management contract of Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT), the principal source of income of the port as a 'heinous one' designed to bring about destruction of the port. They warned that Chittagong port activities would be completely suspended by the parishad as per its previous announcement if any initiative is made for installation of the private port. The leaders called upon the government to speed up the development of the port through procuring the Prime Minister-announced and approved 142 equipment to be financed from Port's own fund. The Parishad leaders said that since the procurement of 142 equipment and installation of contained terminal at New Mooring got ECNEC approval in May last year a vested quarter had been up with conspiracy. With the instigation of this quarter foreign firms are making proposals for constructing New Mooring terminal while unjustified and undesired excuses of probable foreign currency crisis are being shown despite finance ministry's positive approach in this regard. The leaders said that Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT) is handling around four lakh TEUS of containers annually at present and when the equipment are procured this will go up to eight lakh TEUS. If the proposal made by Humburg Consulting is accepted the port will be deprived of an annual income of Tk 350 crore, thousands of workers will become jobless and a dual administration will be created at Chittagong Port. Parishad convenor Mahfuzur Rahman Khan, Nurulla Bahar and Md Abu Zafar Azad were present in the meeting, among others.



Autorickshaw kills Daily Star employee

By Staff Correspondent An employee of The Daily Star died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital late Saturday night after he was hit by an autorickshaw at Karwanbazar in the city. Mohammad Nurul Islam, 60, an orderly who worked with the newspaper since its inception, was hit by the autorickshaw (Tha-03-0058) while waiting for a bus at 7:30 pm, police said. He was an official assignment. Police rushed an unconscious Islam to the DMCH where he died at about 11:30 pm from head injuries. He left behind six daughters and a son who live in Laxmipur. Police seized the autorickshaw, but the driver escaped the scene. A case has been filed with Tejgaon police station.

Khalid murder Charge against Shikdar, 25 others framed

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Feb 6: Charge against 26, including Ershad Shikdar was framed in the special court today for killing Khalid Hossain on the night of May 16 last year at Skid ghat. Khalid was a leader of Rupsha Thana Unit of Jubo League. He was the last victim of all murders committed by Ershad during last 25 years. Khalid was beaten to death soon after he had gone to the Skid ghat in response to the call of Ershad for reviving a dispute over lease of Jalkhana ferry ghat. Noor-e-Ahmed, who was one of the eyewitnesses, gave a statement in the court on September 1, 1999. Ershad was arrested on Au-

Sexual abuse Protest meeting at Sunamganj today

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Feb 6: A meeting has been called at the traffic point of Sunamganj town tomorrow protesting the 'illegal entry and sexual abuse of a young girl' by a BDR personnel and attack on the villagers by a BDR group. The situation in the town is tense. Preferring anonymity a police official informed that, a BDR sepoy entered into the house of one Moktar Ali at village Barpara, near the BDR battalion headquarters in Sunamganj town at about 2:30 am today. He swooped on Moktar's daughter and at a stage, the neighbours phoned the house as Moktar and his family started a hue and cry. The villagers caught and tied him up and informed the BDR camp, as the jawans took Matiur Rahman, 32, to the BDR camp. They gave him a good beating, causing serious injuries and released him in the early morning. Matiur has been admitted to the Sunamganj Sadar Hospital. The matter was brought to the notice of Sunamganj Fourashaya Chairman Momtaz Mojudin early in the morning, who immediately tried to contact the BDR officials, but reportedly failed. The news soon spread in the town and the citizens' committee called for a protest rally tomorrow afternoon. DC and SP visited the village. None of the BDR officials could be contacted the whole day for comments. Fazlul Haque Aspia MP after

PM's visit: JCD demonstrates on DU campus

By DU Correspondent The Jatnyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of main opposition party BNP, staged a demonstration on the Dhaka University campus yesterday to protest the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the campus to inaugurate the month-long Ekushey Book Fair at the Bangla Academy. Leaders and workers of JCD brought out a procession covering their faces with black cloth and paraded the Arts Building premises. Police intercepted the JCD activists at the gate of the Arts Building and prevented them from marching towards the Bangla Academy. Earlier, police locked the entrances. The JCD leaders and workers however held a rally at the main gate of the Arts Building. The JCD leaders said they could not allow 'powerocrat' Hasina on the DU campus since she jaded the president and general secretary of the organisation to foil the democratic movement. They blamed Hasina for introducing Public Safety Act and alleged that the law would be used to intensify further the repression on the opposition activists.

Blast at BNP office Peon Ripon gives confessional statement

By Court Correspondent Farkan Hawlader Ripon, arrested in connection with bomb explosion on the fourth floor of BNP central office at Naya Paltan in the city on February 3, gave confessional statement at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday. Ripon, a peon of the BNP central office, was produced in the CMM's court yesterday at about 1:30 pm. The court sent him to the central jail after recording his statement for about three hours. In his statement he said that he was sleeping on the second floor while the bomb exploded with a big bang. Elahi and Babu called him up and asked to flee the premise. While he was coming to the ground floor he met his boss Dallil Uddin, a computer operator of the office. On arrival on the ground floor, he found a young man near the main gate of the office with severe injuries. He, however, said he could not recognise the victim as he joined the office recently. He along with his boss Dallil went upstairs to see the damaged floor of the building. The rest nine of 12 arrested will be produced before the CMM's court today after completion of their three-day remand. Earlier, Dallil gave confessional statement on Saturday, which is similar to what Ripon had said. But statements of both of them were not available.

Huge unedible milk seized: Haradhon lands in hajat

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Feb 6: One thousand sacks of adulterated and unedible skimmed milk powder has been seized and one person was arrested in this connection here this afternoon. Double Mooring police in a drive, acting on a tip off, recovered this huge milk powder under the levels — Skimmed Milk Powder made in Australia, Skimmed Milk Powder made in India and Laiter Fine En Bonfire Star made in France — from a godown at Mazhirghat 100 Strand Road. One Haradhon Das, 45, was arrested for his alleged involvement in this. The approximate price of the recovered milk was Tk 20 lakh, police sources said.

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 6: Shibir-led All-Party Student Alliance (APSA) continued strike at the Chittagong University (CU) for the sixth day today. Classes were not held but offices at the administrative building remained open during the strike. No shuttle train or buses carrying students and varsity teachers piled between campus and the city. APSA enforced strike for an indefinite period on February 1 demanding release of 54 Shibir activists and arrest of the killers of two Shibir activists. The Shibir activists were killed in a gunfight with BCL on the campus on December 19. APSA held a rally on the campus this morning. Speakers at the rally urged the authorities concerned to meet their demands immediately. They also demanded removal of VC, Pro-VC Protector and provosts of all halls of the university by February 11. Otherwise, they threatened to go for a greater agitation programme. Meanwhile, general students of the university under the banner of General Student Council has announced a fresh agitation programme demanding immediate resumption of classes. The programme was declared at a press conference at a city hotel this afternoon. The programme includes, submission of memoranda to the District Commissioner, and the Vice-Chancellor of the university on February 7 and 9 respectively. Trial of Ferdous Hossain demanded By DU Correspondent Some students of the Dhaka University yesterday brought out a procession on the campus demanding trial of Ferdous Hossain, a teacher of the university. Ferdous Hossain, also the General Secretary of the University Teachers Association (UTA), was arrested recently on charge of assaulting his wife. The students under the banner of 'Students of Dhaka University Against Sexual Harassment' (SDUASH) held a rally in front of the Aparajeo Bangla on the campus at noon. Addressing the rally, they demanded exemplary punishment to Ferdous Hossain. Among others, Samina Lutfi, Abeda Gulrukh and Kamrul Islam addressed the rally.

kidney problems

DUBAI, Feb 6: Suspected Islamic terrorist Osama Bin Laden, who is on a US most-wanted list, has brought a doctor to Afghanistan to treat him for serious kidney problems, a London-based Arabic newspaper said today, reports AFP. Al-Hayat, quoting informed Afghan sources, said the Saudi dissident was suffering from acute kidney pain that needed treatment, which he could not receive in Afghanistan. Bin Laden has curtailed his activities because of the illness, it said. Afghanistan's ruling Taliban has vowed to resist US pressure to hand over the suspect, despite UN air traffic and financial sanctions imposed because of his refusal. Laden, a billionaire stripped of his Saudi nationality, is wanted in the US for allegedly masterminding the August 7, 1998 twin bombings of US embassies in East Africa that killed 224 people. Taliban, which controls most of Afghanistan, has rejected the allegations against Bin Laden.

Three shot in city

By Staff Correspondent Three people including a housewife were shot in separate incidents in the city yesterday. The injured were identified as Shahana Begum, 35, a housewife, Ratan, 22, a pedestrian and Harun, 35. Shahana and Ratan received bullet wounds when two local groups traded gunshots indiscriminately at Block-B, in Mirpur area yesterday evening. The two were passing the area at the time of incident. Shahana was admitted to the orthopaedic hospital with bullet wound in her waist while Ratan to a local clinic with bullet injury in his left leg. Harun was shot near Shantinagar at about 2:00 pm, police and hospital sources said. Two people riding a motorbike shot Harun and sped away, hospital sources said quoting witnesses. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Imam Parishad supporters granted bail in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Feb 6: All the 25 supporters of Khulna Zilla Imam Parishad, who were arrested on Friday, were released on bail today. They were arrested for attacking a rally and mosque of Ahle Hadith at Khalishpur after Juma prayers. Earlier on Saturday morning Khalishpur thana police arrested Imtiaz Amin Salam, 40, trader in fish fry and publisher of a controversial religious booklet styled 'Allah Ki Narakar' written by the Ameer of the Ahle Hadith Sect Sheikh Abdur Rouf Salafi. Both the writer and the publisher are residents of Khalishpur Housing Estate. Search for Abdur Rouf, estate of the booklet is continuing, police said today.

4 killed, 20 hurt in Magura road accident

From Our Correspondent MAGURA, Feb 6: Four people were killed and 20 others injured in a road accident in Bagat area, 20 km from Magura town on Magura-Faridpur highway in the early hours of today. Police said, the accident occurred when a Kushthia bound night coach collided with a Dhaka bound private car at around 2:30 am, killing four, including a union parishad chairman on the spot and injuring 20 others. Of the dead, two were identified as Farukuzzaman, chairman of Ambikapur UP in Faridpur and Swapon of Rajbari district. The identity of two others could not be known immediately.

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