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Bangabandhu Murder Trial
HC hears part of the paper book read out by defence

The High Court Division Bench yesterday heard part of the paper book in the Bangabandhu Murder Case, read out by a defence counsel, Afzal Hossain, reports UNB.

He read out statements of seven prosecution witnesses from the case-history book. They are PW-32 Havelder (retd) A K M Sajedul Haq, PW-33 Havelder (Retd) Selimuddin, PW-34 Havelder Joyndal Ahmed, PW-35, Subedar Major (Retd) Anisul Haq Chowdhury, PW-36 Newaz Ahmed Garjan, PW-37 Reazul Hark and PW-38 Pranab Chandra.

The court adjourned keeping reading out from depositions by 38th prosecution witnesses to resume on Sunday morning also to hear from the 1074-page paper book.

It consists of all papers, documents and depositions and cross-examinations of the witnesses recorded by the trial court.

The HC Division Bench issued the order as hearing on the death reference and appeal by the convicts in the murder case continued for the seventh day yesterday.

"According to my knowledge, appeal was not made. But I can confirm you within five minutes contacting the Attorney General," replied Deputy Attorney General Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik.

Neither AG Mahmudul Islam nor Serajul Haque, the special PP for the case, who also led the

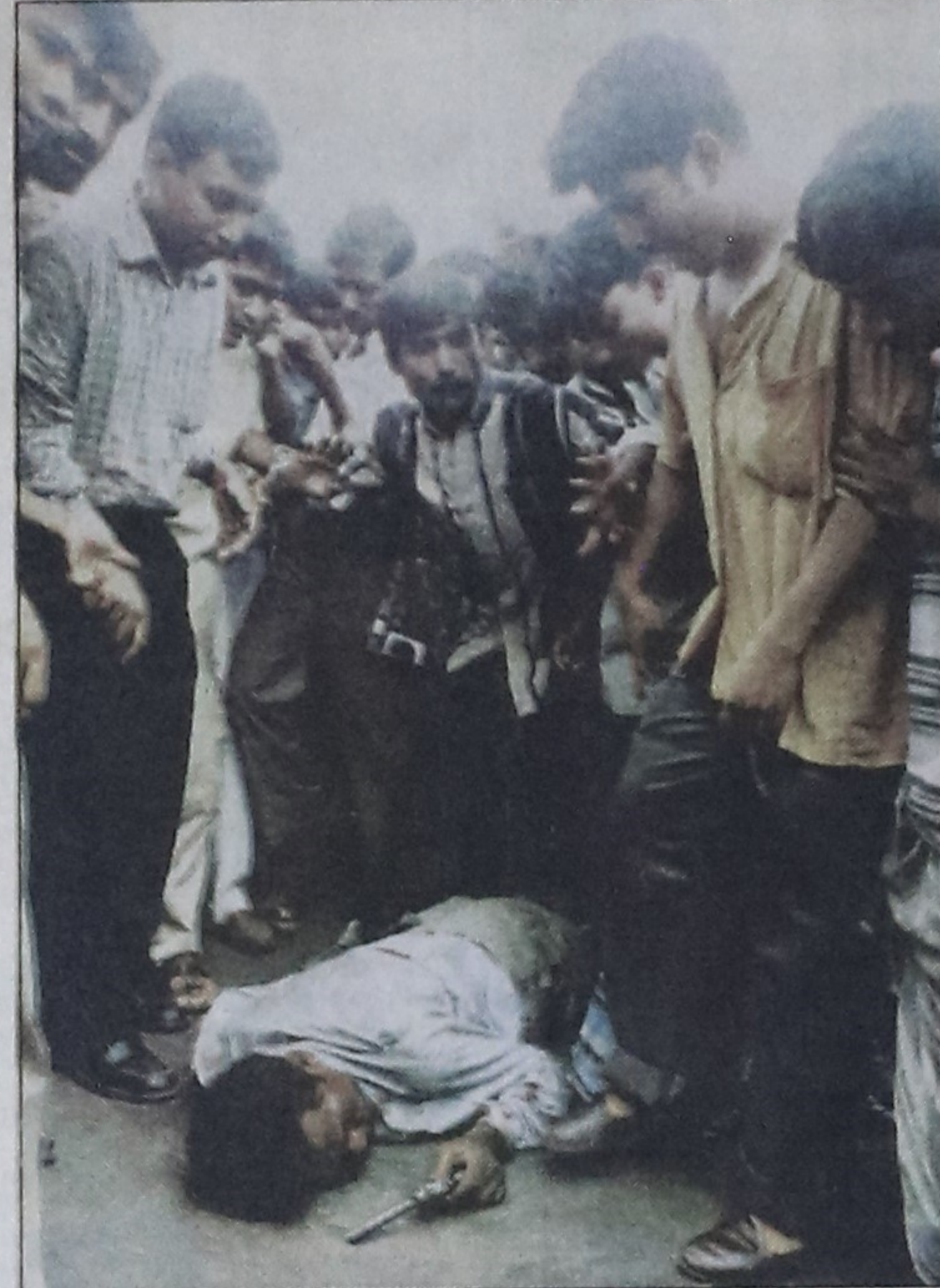
prosecution in the trial court, was present in the courtroom during the HC Bench's query.

The court later asked the prosecution lawyer to inform the bench on Sunday.

Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court on November 8, 1998 in its verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case awarded 15 accused, all former army officers, death penalty but acquitted four others of the charge.

The hearing is now taking place in the HC as the verdict of the District and Sessions Judge's Court automatically went to the High Court as a death reference under Section 374 of the Cr PC.

Four convicts now in jail also appealed to the High Court. They are Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Faruq Rahman, Lt Col (retd) Sultan Shahrar Rashid Khan, Major (retd) Muhiuddin and Major (Retd) Bazul Huda.



A mugger with his pistol in hand lies unconscious near the north gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday. He was beaten by a mob after being caught red-handed. —Star photo

BNP rejects DCC budget of "looting and plundering"

By Staff Correspondent

City BNP rejected yesterday Dhaka City Corporation's annual budget for 2000-2001 year, saying it is a "budget of plundering and looting."

The city dwellers cannot accept the budget presented by a failed, incompetent, corrupt and partisan mayor, said city BNP President Sadek Hossain Khoka MP. He called upon the city people to build up a mass resistance against the "misdeeds and repression" of Mayor Mohammad Hanif and his party.

Speaking at a press conference at Jatitya Press Club, Khoka said Mayor Hanif has so far placed seven budgets but all of these have failed to address the existing problems. Instead, these created unspecified number of new problems.

Khoka said the Awami League terrorists and party men backed by the mayor looted hundreds of crores of taka, unleashed a reign of terror and made life of city dwellers miserable in the last six years.

He said the new budget like the other six previous ones is also an ambitious one and it provides enough room to loot and plunder crores of taka. Quoting press reports, he said the treasury of the DCC is now fully empty and salaries of staff were disbursed from the development expenditure without any recommendation of the government.

Even the DCC at the dictate of the mayor borrowed Tk 4 crore from the provident fund of the workers and employees of the corporation. "The Mayor is using the city corporation's coffers as if it is his own purse," he added.

The city BNP president, who has been declared by the party as BNP candidate for next mayoral polls, said Mayor Hanif and his associates in the name of elimination of mosquito have been looting huge amount of

money every year.

The mayor is also looting money in the name of renovation of roads, lanes, footpaths, road lights, and maintenance of the city.

He said the DCC purchased 60,000 litres of Mortein insecticide at the rate of Tk 326 per litre in 1996-97 fiscal whereas the Chittagong City Corporation purchased the same insecticide the same year at the rate of Tk 90 per litre. The Mayor looted Tk 40.60 lakh only from purchasing Mortein in one year, but this insecticide did not kill mosquito.

The BNP leader said the mayor illegally sold out the basement of a large number of markets including the City Plaza, Nagar Plaza, Zaker Super Market and markets at Fulbaria and Kaptan Bazar.

Khoka said the Mayor and his party men are also minting money by giving illegal license to over three lakh rickshaws in the city. The number of rickshaws with valid license is only 86,000 while about four lakh rickshaws ply in the capital, he added.

He said a cattle market at Banani was allotted at Tk 7 lakh, but the mayor all on a sudden cancelled the market on environmental ground. However, Awami League men set up the market, but the DCC didn't get a single paisa from this cattle market.

Khoka said the Mayor violating all rules and regulations allotted the Siddique Bazar Market, Fulbaria DCC Hawkers Market, Siddique Bazar Small Traders Association Market, Adarsha Hawkers Market, Gulistan Old Bazar Hawkers Market, the site for rehabilitation of Motijheel thana hawkers members and market adjacent to Gulshan-2 mosque to the AL men. Similarly 22 shops of Mohammadpur Krishi Market were not allotted among the 600 genuine applicants.

The DCC also constructed 550 shops on 55 decimal of DIT lands in 1997 and sold out those illegally. Mayor Hanif and two AL ward commissioners were directly involved in this corruption, Khoka added.

The BNP leader said the mayor spends about Tk 10 crore every year from the special fund, but this money has been distributed only among the AL ward commissioners.

Referring to renovation of Dhanmondi lake, he said the DCC allotted Tk 8.60 crore for the development of Dhanmondi lake, but later the amount rose to Tk 12 crore. The mayor increased the allocation violating the rules of financial management of the DCC.

He said the younger brother of the chief executive officer of DCC, who is a relative of the prime minister, is misappropriating crores of taka in the name of contract.

About the environment of Dhaka city, Khoka said although Dhaka has been declared a mega city, there is no allocation in this year's budget for environment.

Quoting a World Bank report, he said some 15,000 people are dying every year in the city and lakhs of people have been suffering from various complex diseases due to environmental pollution. Of the affected, 60 per cent are children.

Khoka also alleged that the mayor is not carrying out any development works and also not allotting money for the wards where BNP men is elected as commissioner.

BNP leader and former mayor Mirza Abbas, city BNP general secretary Abdus Salam, DCC commissioners loyal to BNP including Kazi Abul Bashar, Chowdhury Alam, Abdul Majid, Nabullah Nabi, Gollam Moshed, MA Qalium and Mokbul Ahmed Akand attended the press conference.

Conspiracy on to stage another Aug 15: PM

Foundation of Brahmputra Bridge laid

SHERPUR, July 6: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said a vested quarter is hatching conspiracy to stage "another August 15" to save the killers of father of the nation, reports UNB.

Hasina made the remarks while addressing a public meeting in Shahed Darg Ali Poura Park this afternoon during her daylong tour.

Chaired by acting president of local Awami League Khorsheduzzaman, the meeting was also addressed by Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Atiur Rahman Atiq MP, M A Bari MP, Tahura Ali MP and Jubo League leader Dr Abdus Salam.

Sheikh Hasina said the opposition begs vote from the people just in the vote season. "Actually they want facilities, they came to Parliament just to save their red passport and secure their allowance," the Prime Minister said.

But those government, after coming to power, has been doing its best to make Bangladesh a development and dignified nation in the world arena.

"This is the first time Bangladesh is attaining self-sufficiency in food production about 2.5 crore tons of food

grain while the growth rate rose to above 6 per cent," she said.

At the meeting the Prime Minister announced a number of pledges, including introduction of MA course at Sherpur College, initiating digital telephone service, construction of town bypass, a bridge over river Mrigi, upgrading the Sadar Hospital to a 250-bed hospital gradually.

She also announced a grant for Tk 2 lakh for Sherpur Press Club and New Market.

Earlier, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Brahmputra bridge at about 2 pm and had a meeting with local leaders at the Circuit House at about 3 pm.

Addressing the meeting Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said the government has a plan to set up an Export Processing Zone in Jhenaidah Upazila.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister at a public meeting at Kendua criticised BNP lawmakers for their prolonged boycott of Parliament and urged the people to vote for Awami League candidates in the next election.

"Elect those as people's representatives who will talk about you... Vote for us in the next election, we will do everything for you," Hasina said pledging to build a poverty and hunger-free country.

Referring to various demands of the locality, she assured all cooperation for the development of the area. She announced an Ashrayan project will be launched here soon. Kendua Hospital will be upgraded to a 100-bed hospital gradually and honours courses will be opened in Kendua College.

She also assured steps to turn Kendua into a municipality.

The Prime Minister distributed seeds among 10 farmers at the meeting.

Polish Godiva

WARSAW, July 6: A self-styled Polish Lady Godiva was arrested for public lewdness Thursday after she rode nude on horseback through Krakow's scenic Old Town district to protest high taxes, reports AP.

Three other people also were arrested for organizing an illegal demonstration at the tax office in central Krakow under the slogan "Lady Godiva is back," police spokesman Robert Szydlo said.

The protest marked the seventh anniversary of the introduction of a value-added tax in Poland. The government currently is discussing broader use of the tax.

According to English legend, the original Lady Godiva rode naked through the town of Coventry to persuade her husband, the earl of Mercia, to reduce heavy taxes.

No headway in Bushra murder case

By Staff Correspondent

Police failed to make any headway till yesterday in its probe into the killing of college student Bushra Islam Phool.

The only daughter of retired police official Serajul Islam, Phool, 18, was killed in her bedroom at their residence at DIT Road, Hajipara, in the city late Saturday night.

Police, however, suspected that Phool's killing was linked with dispute over the house where she was killed. But they failed to collect any concrete evidence.

The victim's father told this correspondent that his family is residing in the house belonging to his brother-in-law (wife's brother) late Samad at the request of his son and daughters, who live aboard.

"We were requested to come to the house to take care of it"

Islam said without giving details.

Kader, step brother of Samad who was a magistrate, was living in that house even when he (Samad) was alive.

Kader and his wife, when contacted, said that they did not have any dispute with Islam and his family.

DB officials probing the murder said yesterday four to five middle aged people met Abdul Kader, a local leader of the ruling party, in that house at about 10 on the night of the incident. They were never seen there earlier.

Kader and his family members are now being interrogated DB police.

Samad died in 1995 while his wife died in 1989. Islam said adding that the couple had three

Ctg mass killing
Second phase of hearing ends

CHITTAGONG, July 6: The second phase of the hearing of Chittagong Mass Killing Case ended by the Metropolitan Additional Sessions Judge's Court today with deposition of two more witnesses, reports UNB.

They are senior police official Nurul Haq Majumdar and Abdul Wahab. With them deposition of 11 witnesses was completed during the hearing that resumed on Tuesday after a 25-day break. The next phase of hearing will resume on July 25.

Majumdar told the court that patrol inspector JG Mondol brought eight naked bodies including four Muslims in a truck in the evening on January 24, 1988 and took all those to Ovoyimrit Crematorium for cremation at 11-30 pm.

He said on inquiry the inspector told him that the bodies were being taken for the cremation under the instruction of the police commissioner.

The prosecution witness further said he sent 10 platoons of police to the rally of the eight-party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina at Laldighi Maidan at 7-30 am that returned at 8 pm.

During the hearing, PP Kamaluddin and SPF Sadhu Prasad Biswas presented various evidences of the case.

Jahanara Imam Memorial Medals handed over

By Staff Correspondent

Ghatak Dalal Nirmla Committee yesterday handed over Jahanara Imam Memorial Medals for this year and last four years to five distinguished persons and five organisations for their role in upholding the spirit of the Liberation War and in the movement against communalism and fundamentalism.

The Committee organised a discussion meeting and medal handing over ceremony at the auditorium of Centre for Planning and Development in the city to mark the sixth death anniversary of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury handed over the medals to four persons and representatives of five organisations. The medal for litterateur Shawkat Osman (posthumous) was given to his son Yafiz Osman.

Dr Kazi Faruk Ahmed of Proshika was awarded the medal for the year 2000.

Barrister Shafiq Ahmed for 1999, Poet Shamsur Rahman for 1998, Shawkat Osman for 1997 and Justice Debesh Bhattacharyya for 1996.

The organisations which got the medals are: Udichi for the year of 2000, Projanno 71 for 1999, Muktiyuddha Gabeshana Kendra for 1998, Muktiyuddha Jadughar for 1997 and London-based television channel Twenty Twenty for 1996. The TV channel was awarded for a documentary film War Crime Files.

Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam gave Jahanara Imam Memorial

Schoolboy murdered in Shariatpur

SHARIATPUR, July 6: A student of Panditstar High school in Naria thana was stabbed to death by armed miscreants in front of the school this morning, reports UNB.

Witnesses said four to five youths encircled Anwar Hossain, son of Amir Hossain of Shalod village, just 20 yards off the school gate and stabbed him indiscriminately at about 10 am. Anwar died on the spot.

Police suspected that the killing was a sequel to an altercation between Anwar and students of class nine of the school during a cricket match on Wednesday.

Stabbed shopowner dies in hospital

By Staff Correspondent

A shopowner, who was stabbed by unidentified men at Sanat Prasad Lane in the old part of city on Monday, succumbed to his injuries at the National Cardio-Vascular Disease Hospital yesterday.

The victim was identified as Shanker Kumer Dey, 20, son of Jhankar Kumer Dey of Sanat Prasad Lane.

A gang of miscreants called Shankar out of his stationery shop, took him to a place in front of Rani Bhaban and stabbed him at about 3 pm.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later shifted to the Cardio-Vascular Disease Hospital where he died yesterday.

The body of the victim was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Sutrappur police in this regard. Four young men — Halim, Selim, Abul Hossain and Jalil — were arrested for their alleged involvement in the incident.

No loadshedding in city?

By Staff Correspondent

City dwellers in several areas experienced disruption in power supply for long periods yesterday but DESA officials said there was virtually no load shedding.

Officials at DESA's control room said there were only 40 MW "forced load shedding", mainly due to "weak transmission and distribution lines and mechanical problem in some transformers".

Sometimes, repair work takes several days, they said.

Sources in DESA (Dhaka Electric Supply Authority) and PDB (Power Development Board) said the situation is unlikely to improve soon as demand for electricity rises with rise in temperature.

When his attention was drawn to disruption in supply in certain areas including Kawran Bazar for 4-5 hours every day for the last few weeks, one source said this is because DESA's transformer at Ulani is not functioning for long. Due to this, power supply is being disrupted.

Businessman shot, mugged

By Staff Correspondent

A businessman was shot and Tk 35,000 was snatched from him by a gang of muggers at Shyambazar in the old part of the city yesterday evening.

The victim was identified as Abdul Kuddus, 35, and a resident of Lalkuthi in the old part of the city.

The incident took place when Kuddus along with Abdul Haq Siddik was going to a local bank at Shyambazar to deposit the money.

Jail Killing Case Hearing for framing charge on July 23

The hearing for framing charge in the Jail Killing Case was not held yesterday since one of the accused fell sick and could not be produced in the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka.

Ahmad Jamil Mostafa, Metropolitan Sessions Judge, adjourned the proceedings of charge hearing till July 23.

The court started hearing in this regard on June 27. Charges against 13 absconders and three of the eight arrested accused were heard on that day.

Four national leaders — Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, A H M Quamaruzzaman and Captain Mansur Ali — were murdered in the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975. The then DIG Prisons Abdul Awal filed the Jail Killing Case on November 4 the same year under Section 302/34 of the penal code.

Traffic at Ctg port increases by 14pc

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 5: Traffic at Chittagong port increased by about 14 per cent in the just ended fiscal year compared to that in fiscal 1998-99, port sources said.

The port handled 17 million metric tons of cargo including 1.7 million metric tons of export goods in 1999-2000 fiscal, reports received from port said.

In the fiscal 98-99, it handled 15 million metric tons of cargo, including 1.6 million MT of export goods, the report said.

Officials attributed the increase of traffic to rise both in import and export.

However, Chittagong port handled over 4 lakh containers in 1999-2000 compared to 3.65 lakh the previous year, port reports said.

The port frequently faces congestion due to shortage of handling equipment and other facilities.

Besides, frequent labour unrest and inclement weather in the rainy season cause congestion at the port built over 100 years ago with a capacity of handling only 6 million metric tons of cargo, port and shipping circles said.

The port now handles over 1200 vessels a year, port sources said.

Pak national detained at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

A Pakistani national was handed over to police by customs officials at Zia International Airport for carrying 22 passengers tickets of PIA for Karachi from Dhaka after arriving by the airline yesterday.

Mohammed Faisal was being questioned by police after he was detained by customs on suspicion when he was passing through the customs bay at ZIA. BBC report said last night.

Police is trying to find out why he was carrying the tickets and the reason behind his trip to Dhaka.

| July | Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
|--------|-----------|----------|
| July 7 | | 6-50pm |
| July 8 | 5-17am | |

Prayer Timings

July 7

| | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Fajr | 4-15 | 4-45 |
| Juma | 12-30 | 1-30 |
| Asr | 5-00 | 5-15 |
| Maghrib | 6-50 | 6-55 |
| Esha | 8-15 | 8-45 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Pakistan talks tough on Taliban

ISLAMABAD, July 6: Pakistan is getting tough with its Taliban friends in neighbouring Afghanistan, Pakistan's interior minister said today, reports AP.

Pakistan's tough talk began last month when the military government in Islamabad gave the Taliban a list of 18 camps where Pakistanis were allegedly receiving military training.

Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider said Pakistan demanded that the camps all be shut down. As a result, the Taliban closed camps at Rishkore and Kargah on the outskirts of the Afghan capital of Kabul. Haider told The Associated Press in an interview.

But Kabul residents living near the camps said the Pakistani trainees told them that they were being sent to Kunduz province in northern Afghanistan to join the fight against the Taliban's northern-based enemies.

Some Taliban soldiers also said alternate camps were being constructed for Pakistanis in the mountains ringing Kabul.

Haider said relocating Pakistanis to other areas of Afghanistan was not good enough.

"We told them that we don't want any Pakistanis fighting in your country. This is your internal conflict. We think you should settle it through dialogue, but if you want to fight and it is manpower you need, then get them from among your own people," Haider said.

Pakistan is one of the Taliban's few friends in a world that is deeply critical of their harsh brand of Islamic law and apparent willingness to give refuge to Islamic militants, including suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden, a multi-millionaire Saudi exile accused by the United States of masterminding the 1998 bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

But Pakistan's military government, which seized power here last October, has become increasingly frustrated by problems at home, which it says have been made worse by Taliban.

The Pakistani government has tried to curb violent clashes in the country between heavily armed, rival Muslim groups, some of whose members have reportedly received training in Afghanistan.

Members of these groups move freely between the two countries, across a porous border that allowed Pakistan to be the staging area in the 1980s for US-backed Afghan Islamic guerrillas fighting the occupying Soviet army.

Haider said Pakistan has had enough.

"We want these people involved in sectarian killings arrested and given back to us," he said.

One jailed for 17 years in arms case

By Court Correspondent

The 4th Assistant Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday awarded 17 years rigorous imprisonment to one Siraj alias Shohag in an arms case.

The Judge M Moklesur Rahman found Siraj guilty and gave the verdict.

Siraj, son of Lal Miah of Munshigonj was arrested with arms from a hotel at Kutubkhall under Demra thana on August 19, 1995.

After cross-examination of 5 prosecution witnesses, the court gave the judgement.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Syed Bashir Hossain Chowdhury appeared for the state while advocate Al-Azad for the accused.

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