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Couple arrested for torturing maid in city

By Staff Correspondent

A couple was arrested on charge of torturing a maid at their Lalkuthi residence at Mirpur Mazar Road in the city yesterday.

Kalpina alias Asma, 22, was rescued by Mirpur police from a colony at Mirpur after being informed by the local people yesterday morning.

Nurul Huda, and his wife Umme Habiba were arrested for torturing the maid.

Hospital sources quoting witnesses said Asma went to Huda's house yesterday morning to meet with newly appointed maid Naher and collect her belongings. She was mercilessly beaten there by three people on charge of stealing valuables from the house.

When the victim started screaming local people informed the incident to police. Police rushed to the spot and rescued the victim. Police then arrested the couple for torturing the maid.

Asma was hired by the couple as a maid about two and half months ago. She said, she was paid Tk 250 instead of Tk 400 per month as salary. She refused to work at Huda's residence as she was not getting her salary earlier promised by the landlord's wife, Asma added.

A case was filed in this regard with Mirpur thana.

Non-govt teachers on indefinite strike

By Staff Correspondent

The first day of the indefinite strike at non-government educational institutions yesterday was observed partially.

Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Association (BFTA), a forum of teachers and employees of non-government institutions, have called for the strike demanding 100 per cent salaries from the government exchequer and promotion of teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions.

Teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions went to their respective schools and signed attendance register book but abstained from attending classes, students of various non-government educational institutions said.

The BFTA has called for a meeting of all teachers and employees on July 14 at Sheikh Borhanuddin College to discuss their next course of action.

However, a section of students and guardians have expressed concern over the strike

Humayun Zahir murder: Hearing in case July 19

By Court Correspondent

The 8th Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday fixed July 19 for hearing of argument in the Humayun Zahir Murder Case.

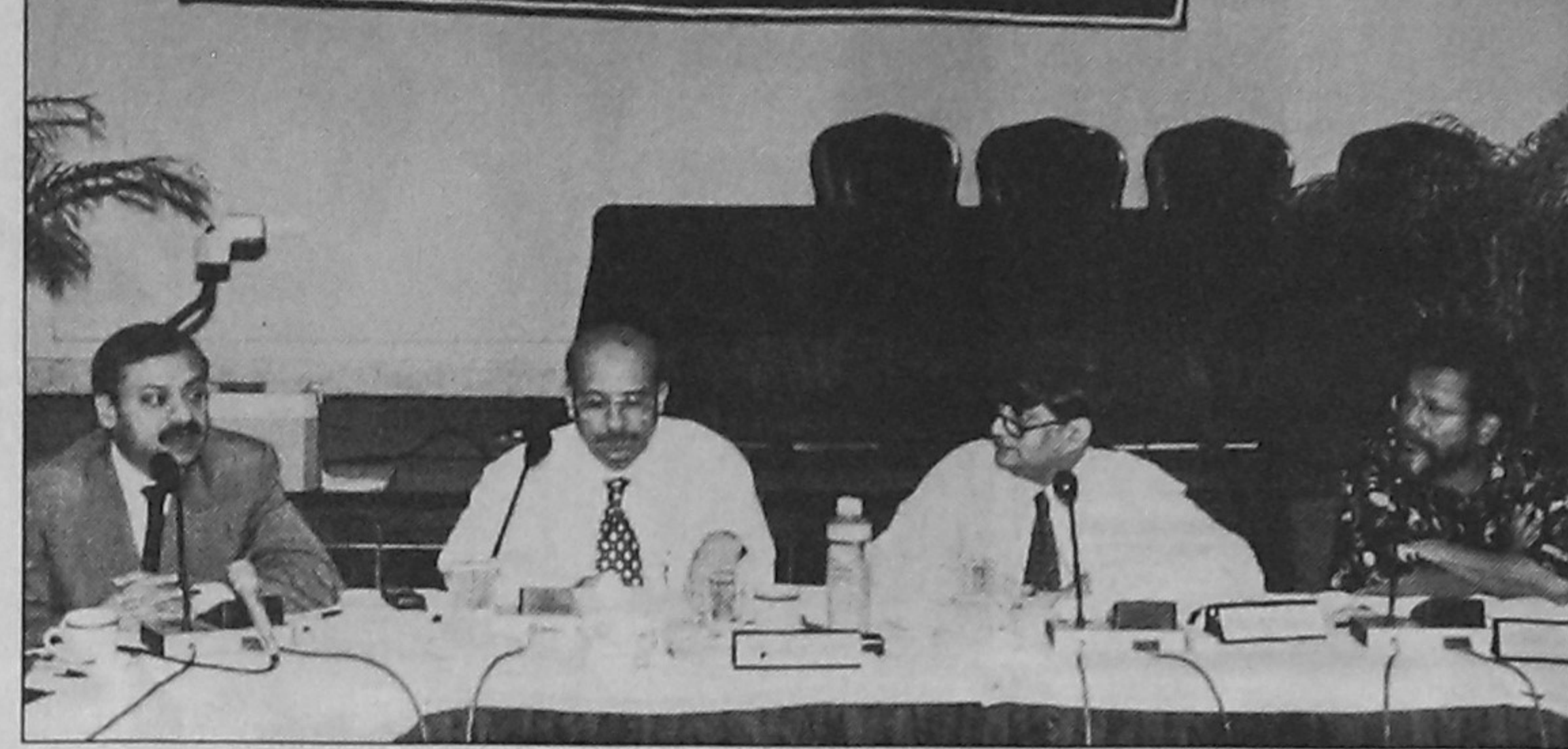
The Judge Mir Awlad Hossain adjourned the proceedings of the case as the public prosecutor did not appear in the court due to his illness.

Humayun Zahir, a leading businessman and the then chairman of United Commercial Bank Limited (UCBL), was shot dead on the premises of his Dhamondi residence on April 8, 1993.

Father-in-law of Zahir filed a case with Dhamondi thana accusing seven people the same day. The 10 submitted chargesheet against seven people including Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu.

Babu and Abdul Matin who were granted ad-interim bail from the High Court yesterday.

Of 5 others accused Hedayatul Islam and Touhidul Islam are absconding while Tammo, Alam and Kausar are in jail.



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Choudhury speaking at a dialogue on peace building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts at BISS yesterday. On his left are Major General Jamil Ahsan, DG, BISS, Syed Fahim Munaim, Managing Editor of The Daily Star and Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Centre for Alternatives. The Daily Star with BISS and Centre for Alternatives arranged the dialogue. — Star photo

Workshop on ethics of journalism in Karachi

From Mizan Ali

KARACHI, July 10: Journalists attending a regional workshop here called for national level debate on corruption and greater role for judiciary to curb the menace.

The four-day workshop on "Combating Corruption: The Ethics of Responsible Journalism" began at the Carlton Hotel conference room here today.

The workshop, jointly organised by Commonwealth Press Union and Pakistan Press Foundation with World Bank support is being attended by newspapermen from host Pakistan, neighbouring India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The workshop began at 10 am and continued till about 6 pm. Former Pakistan Chief Justice Nasim Hassan Shah attended it as the chief guest.

Ghazi Salahuddin, Editorial Director, Jang Group of Newspapers moderated the opening discussion. Talat Hussain, Executive Editor, "Uncovering the Story Following Paper Trail" analysed the stories related to corruption appeared in the Pakistani newspapers.

The participants observed that the political parties in the South Asian countries should endorse the corruption issue in their manifesto. The journalists in the region should also project corruption in their own profession, they said.

The participating journalists also narrated their individual experiences and problems in covering stories related to corruption during the open discussion.

How advertisers, both from private and public sector, try to control the print media through advertisements was also discussed at the workshop.

Embezzlement case: Biman official granted bail

By Court Correspondent

Rashiduzzaman, an officer of Bangladesh Biman at London office, who was arrested on charge of misappropriation of Tk two crore, was granted bail by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday.

Rashiduzzaman, arrested on July 2, was produced before the CMM's court on July 3. The CMM's court sent him to the Dhaka Central Jail rejecting the bail prayer. After seven days, the same court granted him bail.

Rashiduzzaman allegedly collected the said money from tickets sale at London Biman office in 1993. But he did not deposit it to the government fund.

The Bureau of Anti-corruption filed the case and the IO submitted a chargesheet against two people including Rashiduzzaman.



Segunbagicha High School on the first day yesterday of the indefinite strike by non-govt school teachers. — Star photo

Snatcher beaten to death at Sharsha

By Staff Correspondent

BENAPOLE, July 10: Villagers caught four young men while fleeing after snatching Tk 75,000 at gunpoint from a timber trader at Subarnakhali under Sharsha thana today, reports UNB.

Rana, one of the snatchers, died on the spot in mass beating and his associates Shafi, Shamim and Tarikul were admitted to hospital. Their condition was stated to be critical.

Witnesses and police said Mantu, the timber trader, was going to Sharsha carrying the money from Navaron. The hijackers waylaid him at village Subarnakhali and snatched the money at gunpoint.

Mantu raised a hue and cry when the hijackers were fleeing in a private car. They also fired several gunshots to create panic in the area.

But the villagers in motor vehicles gave a hot chase and soon caught hold of the hijackers.

The villagers said the snatchers were activists of the ruling party.

Tension was prevailing in the area following the incident. A case was filed with Sharsha police.

Body to resolve leadership conflict Discontent in JCD over role of two members

By Rezaul Karim

An adverse reaction has been created among the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal following formation of a high powered committee by the BNP chief for resolving the problems within the party's student wing as two of the four members of the committee have reportedly been backing a particular faction of the JCD.

Sources concerned said most of the JCD activists at Dhaka University, Dhaka College and other educational institutions in the capital city have expressed their resentment and reservation about the two members and demanded reorganising the committee.

The activists said the two members, who are among the hardliners within BNP, have been giving all cooperation to "Pintu faction" since the formation of the JCD central committee on December 3, 1998.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia recently formed the committee comprising party's Standing Committee member Dr Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain, senior vice chairman Tariqul Islam, joint secretaries general Ashraf Hossain and Mirza Abbas.

According to the sources, a large number of JCD leaders and activists in separate groups met some policy makers of the BNP yesterday and requested them to persuade the party chief to remove the two members from the committee immediately in the greater interest of the organisation.

They told the policy makers that they expected a new committee consisting of genuine students and dedicated persons acceptable to all.

JCD sources said Pintu faction reportedly held a meeting at the residence of one of the two BNP leaders concerned prior to the July 2 incident on the Dhaka University campus that left one person killed.

They apprehended that the committee would not be able to solve the problems with the two leaders remaining in it.

More than 150 JCD leaders and activists met BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday morning and resented inclusion of the two "controversial" leaders in the committee, sources said.

Khaleda Zia while forming the body asked the four top leaders of the party to look into why its student wing is facing leadership conflict who are patronising the JCD factions and provoked grouping, what is the sentiment of genuine students and then suggest how to overcome the prevailing crisis and the student body could be reorganised and strengthened and name some new faces for its leadership.

The committee has in the meantime exclusively talked with a good number of JCD leaders and activists and is likely to submit its report to the BNP Chairperson shortly.

Asked about JCD activists' reservation about two leaders, Tariqul Islam said no member of the committee can do anything alone.

Another member of the committee said most of the JCD leaders and activists during discussions with the committee alleged that the crisis within the organisation was created as its central committee is dominated by 'non-student, cadres and extortionists.'

Sources said that during the exclusive discussions, majority of the JCD leaders and activists suggested formation of JCD's central, city and Dhaka University committees comprising genuine students, elimination of factions, dropping of leaders and cadres who caused grouping and conflicts within the organisation, removal of BNP's student affairs secretary.

Arms recovered from DU hall: 2 outsiders held

By DU Correspondent

Police raided Sir AF Rahman Hall of Dhaka University late Sunday night and recovered one shotgun and 17 rounds of bullets from there.

Police also arrested two outsiders - Selim and Hira Sheikh - on charges of unauthorised stay at the hall. They are believed to be activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of ruling Awami League.

Hall sources said police raided the hall at about 11 p.m. on Sunday night following clashes between two BCL factions over occupation and counter-occupation of the Hall. Police searched some 'listed' rooms and found the shotgun and bullets beside a water tank at the rooftop of the hall during the hour-long raid.

Earlier, Mahfuz group captured AF Rahman Hall ousting the Nurul group at about 10 Sunday night. Both of them are central members of BCL's hall unit. Tension mounted when Nurul group ousted Mahfuz group and took control of the hall again.

Mahfuz is enjoying the support of "Shariatpur and Madaripur" group led by Bahadur Bepari and M Sazzad Hossain, the central and DU

Accused escapes from judge's court in Khulna

By Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 10: An accused chargesheeted under the Arms Act escaped from the judge's court here on Sunday afternoon.

Accused Shaheen Gazi was produced before the court to face trial. But he managed to escape soon after the hearing ended, witnesses said.

Shaheen escaped breaking a strong security ring formed with SAF and Riot Police, witnesses said.

Constable Abdul Bari Gazi, constable Makbul Hossain and Havildar Syed Azhar Ali of district police were suspended on charge of negligence of duty. Havildar Azhar Ali filed a case with Khulna thana in this connection.

A terrorist named Liton of Basupara was gunned down in police custody by his rivals in front of the judge's court area in February this year. None was arrested so far.

Chetia case Hearing resumes on July 20

By Court Correspondent

The fifth Assistant Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday fixed July 20 for hearing a case filed against ULFA leader Anup Chetia and his two associates.

Acting Judge M Mokhlesur Rahman of the court adjourned the proceedings as the conducting Judge Humayun Kabir was on leave.

Chetia and his two associates - Babul Sharma and Laxmi Prasad Goswami - were arrested from a residence at Adabar under Mohammadpur thana on December 21 in 1997 for possessing currency of 16 countries illegally. Police also recovered a satellite telephone set from them.

All the accused were produced before the court yesterday.

Chetia was awarded six years rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 6000 by the CMM's court, Dhaka on October 25 in 1998 for his illegal stay in Bangladesh.

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50 die, 100 missing in Filipino garbage avalanche

MANILA, July 10: At least 50 people were confirmed killed and up to 100 others remained missing today after an avalanche of garbage engulfed a cluster of shanty homes at a dump on the outskirts of Manila, a public security official said, reports AFP.

"It is 50 and still counting," the official from the department of public order and security said of the toll as rescue workers toiled overnight to remove bodies from the rubble.

"We cannot give a number to those missing in the disaster because the actual verification of this is still ongoing," she said.

Heavy rains spawned by typhoons Kirogi and Kai-tak last week loosened the soil foundation at the Payatas district dump in suburban Quezon city, sending a deadly mass of garbage and mud tumbling down on a cluster of shanties.

As many as 3,000 people may have been displaced by the trash avalanche since as many as 100 shanties were buried, disaster relief agencies said earlier Monday.

The agencies said that based on initial reports about 100 people could be inside the mud and rubble.

Earlier story on page 9

Four killed in West Bengal clashes

MIDNAPORE, West Bengal, July 10: Four people were killed and 29 others injured in continuing clashes between activists of CPI-M and Trinamool Congress (TC) in Midnapore district, police said yesterday, reports PTI.

Two activists were killed in villages Jhinukagram and Tasahana under Keshpur police station yesterday. The victims were identified as Arun Mandal (TC) and Srimanta Hansda (CPI-M).

Another CPI-M supporter Ram Mandi and TC man Nripen Doloi were killed in Angna village on Saturday night during the clash.

The clashes took place in 12 villages under Keshpur, Sadar Kotwali and Pingla police station areas on Saturday.

The police fired four rounds in the Angna village to disperse the warring people on Saturday night. There was no casualty in the police firing. SP Gaurab Dutta said after visiting the villages where paramilitary forces, Eastern Frontier Rifles (EFR) and Rapid Action Force (RAF), were on patrol.

One TC supporter was abducted in Ruinan village under Sabang police station while fierce fighting was reported in Urasai village under Garbeta police station, the sources said.

News Analysis Best opportunity to end the year-long stand-off missed

By Nazmul Ashraf

The parliament session that has just gone by left a lot to be desired. The long session with 25 sittings spread over more than a month had the best opportunity to end the year-old stand-off caused by the opposition's boycott of the House proceedings.

Unfortunately however, the much-expected solution did not come due to lack of acumen on the part of the government as well as the opposition, the BNP in particular.

And, for reasons obvious, the session's outcome had been what it was surely to be in the absence of opposition lawmakers. With the opposition hell-bent on not returning to the House, the government was past caring and did whatever it deemed fit.

Some of the legislative businesses the House settled and some other it left unsettled were definitely of great political significance. Done in a lawful way though, such businesses are bound to bear adverse impact on the politics of the days to come.

Besides the new national budget, the parliament during the session passed as many as 16 bills providing for new or amended laws. With the opposition lawmakers staying out, the government neither faced any challenge nor any suggestion to its legislative motions. Same was the case for the new budget. A faction of Jatiya Party loyal to the government played the role of a subservient opposition.

Like the four previous sessions with the BNP-led opposition parties boycotting the proceedings, the budget session too suffered heavily due to irregular attendance by the treasury bench members. The session continued without the required number of MPs most of the time as no-one brought the crisis to the notice of the Chair.

But the barren House transacted some politically significant businesses, which would have generated much heat and hit bigger headlines had the opposition been there to play its role.

Maybe the ruling party would have rejected the opposition suggestions by dint of its majority in any case. But, there is no denying the fact that strong debate on such issues could have projected the government role in an effective manner.

The crucial Zila Parishad Bill is an ideal example. The bill providing for indirectly elected district councils and, with a last-minute amendment, enabling the ruling Awami League to take over the control of the district administration ahead of the next general election was passed unopposed.

Some other bills involving greater public interests, such as the one about the government primary school teachers' welfare trust or the new government body on housing, were also cleared by parliament without any debate.

In fact, almost all the 16 bills were passed in the shortest possible time again because of lack of opposition or suggestions for changes.

In the same line, treasury bench's blistering speeches against the boycotting opposition also went on uninterrupted and unchallenged.

Despite all likeness, the latest session of parliament had at least one big difference. Ending about a year-old boycott, lawmakers of the BNP-led opposition parties returned to the House for a brief period. The symbolic attendance was primarily aimed to protect the seats they were on the verge of losing due to absence for 90

Bangabandhu Murder Case Supplementary paper book supplied to HC

A supplementary paper book containing applications of Faruq and Shahriar for retracting their confessional statements had been supplied to a High Court bench now hearing death reference and appeals on Bangabandhu Murder Case, reports UNB.

Earlier the bench, comprising Justice Mohammad Rubul Amin and Justice A B M Khairul Haque, had ordered for the supplementary paper book following a petition by Khan Saifur Rahman, the counsel for principal accused Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Faruq Rahman.

Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondol on March 1, 1997 had filed the applications with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court for retracting the confessional statements of Faruq and his co-accused Lt Col (ret'd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan.

But the applications were not included in the paper book consisting of all statements and documents recorded by the trial court. Now the book is being read out in the High Court.

Prosecution said: "The exclusion of the applications seeking to retract the confessional statements was an inadvertent mistake."

Additional solicitor of the Law Ministry Shahabuddin Chuppu sent the three-page

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