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SI who recorded case against Morshed Khan suspended

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Jan 1: Sub-inspector Abdul Matin of Kulshi thana who recorded the case against BNP leader M. Morshed Khan, his son and several party men under CrPC has been suspended, police sources said.
The same case was later recorded under Section 10 of the Public Safety Act (PSA).
Talking to this correspondent Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) ATM Ahmedul Haq said that SI Matin was put under suspension for his "lapses in recording the case properly".
The Commissioner claimed that SI Matin had mistakenly recorded the complaint lodged by the owner of the sweetmeat shop as a "general case" though it had the merit to be recorded under the PSA.
He also claimed that the ezhar (complaint) copy in the prescribed form in the thana was recorded under the PSA.
The Commissioner denied that there was an appeal by the shop owner, Azadur Rahman, for a compromise and withdrawal of the case.
Meanwhile, Kulshi thana police, as per instruction from the court, recorded the case filed by Morshed Khan's driver under the PSA after treating it as an FIR.
UNB adds: Azadur Rahman who filed the case remained missing from his house since Thursday.
His family living at Bhuiyan Gall in the port city said they were threatened by unidentified people over telephone and sought police protection.
Meanwhile, the CMM's Court today recorded statements of eyewitnesses to the incident at Misfalah Sweets on December 26. They are guards Rezaul Haq, Anwar Hossain and shop owners Amirul Huda Qwureshi and Mohammad Nasim.

Coop Act 2001 approved

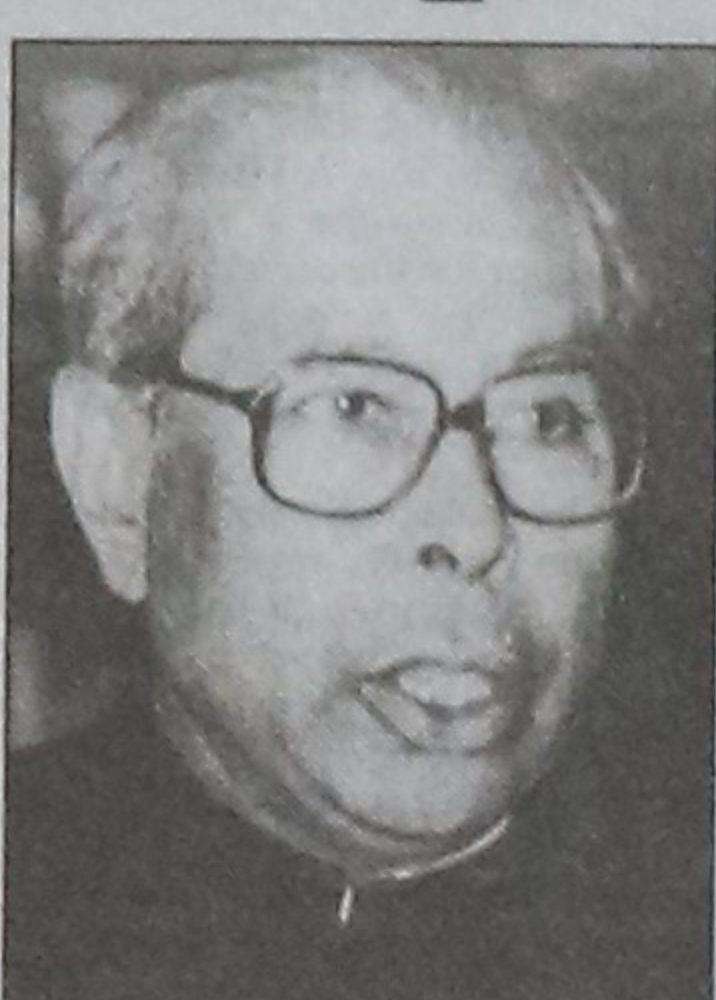
The Cabinet yesterday approved on principle the Cooperative Act 2001 repealing the Cooperative Act 1984 aiming to bring dynamism in the field, reports UNB.
"As a result of updating the law, effective participation and contribution of the cooperators in country's development would be ensured and dynamism infused in the management of cooperatives," an official press release said.
It was approved at the cabinet meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at the PM's office.
Besides, the council of ministers endorsed the ratification proposals for bilateral investment protection and development agreements signed between Bangladesh and Uzbekistan and Bangladesh and Swiss Confederation.

Case against Adel Hearing on charge framing Jan 14

By Court Correspondent
The Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday fixed January 14 for hearing on charge framing in a sedition case against Jahangir Mohammad Adel and his two sons on charge of hoisting a Pakistani national flag atop his residence in the city on August 14.
Judge Hrishikesh Saha adjourned the proceedings of the case after a time prayer by the defence lawyers.
Advocate T M Akbar, lawyer for the accused submitted two petitions before the court one for extension of bail of Jahangir Mohammad Adel and other for adjournment of charge hearing against the accused.
After hearing both the sides, the court granted the two petitions.
The court also fixed the same date for hearing on bail petition of Zobayer Mohammad Adel earlier submitted before the court.

First half of current fiscal Growth rate should be well over 5pc: Kibria

The country's economy has been on a robust growth track in the first half of the current fiscal, leaving broad indications that it will grow at 5 per cent-plus rate in the next six months, reports UNB.
"Overall economic indicators show that it is on a healthy growth path... Growth rate of the economy should be comfortably over 5 per cent," said Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria while giving his evaluation on the mid-term economic performance.
The post-flood recession continued until the first half of the just-out calendar year and the economy started picking up from the beginning of the current fiscal year.
Very low rate of inflation, super-bumper crop production, significant growth in industry, revenue, export, import and remittance altogether put the economy on the upturn, Kibria said as the end of the calendar year also marks the end of the first half of the financial year 2000-2001.
Revenue collections grew 21 per cent in the first five months of the FY-01 over the last fiscal year, while exports increased 27 per cent, imports 22 per cent, industrial production 14.11 per cent and remittances 6.23 per cent.
The Finance Minister, however, said he was not happy with the growth of remittance as a portion of foreign exchange is transacted



SAMS Kibria
through hundi. Measures have been taken to check such illegal transaction, which would result in further growth of remittance, he said.
He cited huge consumer spending on the recent Eid occasion as a very good economic aspect that indicates an increase in disposable income on people's hand.
This was possible due to low inflation that enabled people to spend their increased incomes for additional consumer shopping, he said explaining the economics of Eid-shopping binge.
Inflation rate was 2.8 per cent while it was only 1.13 per cent in October on point-to-point calculation.

Elaborating on the import trends, Kibria said the import of consumer goods decreased while that of capital machinery, raw materials and intermediate products increased, indicating a healthy growth in manufacturing sector in the months and years to come.
He echoed the concerns of economists over the pressure on foreign exchange reserve position despite growing exports and remittances and steady flow of foreign aid.
"We investigated into the matter and found that some 650 million US dollars in export proceeds were not repatriated," he said.
Over-invoicing by importers and under-invoicing by exporters and sometimes slackness of commercial banks in repatriating export proceeds create pressure on the reserve position, he said about the causes of the leakage.
Bangladesh Bank has initiated strong actions in this regard, he added.
As of the last day of the calendar year 2000, the reserve was US\$ 1.536 billion.
Super-bumper crop production relieved the reserve of the pressure of food imports in the last calendar year. Crop production was 249.09 lakh metric tons last year and it is expected to be 257 lakh metric tons despite floods in nine districts.

Trial of war criminals Partymen press AL for a concrete decision

By Reaz Ahmad
The ruling Awami League is facing strong pressure from within for a concrete decision on the issue of trial of war criminals.
Some AL leaders who maintain liaison with various platforms of pro-liberation forces have already conveyed the party high command that freedom fighters have a strong sentiment on the issue.
AL sources told The Daily Star that pro-liberation forces expect an early decision paving the way for trial of the collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces who massacred unarmed people in Bangladesh during the War of Independence in 1971.
However, an yet indecisive AL is now giving a serious thought over the issue with the next general elections only a little over six months away.
AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said recently that new laws were required for trial of the war criminal. But she did not say whether her government would go for such laws.
General Secretary of the party and LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman has, however, demanded formation of a special tribunal to try the war criminals. He made the demand while addressing a Victory Day rally in the city recently.
While in the Opposition, AL was very vocal for trial of the war criminals by a special tribunal and strongly supported a movement for this spearheaded by Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee and Jatya Samannaya Committee under the leadership of Jahanara Imam.
Some of the senior AL leaders including an influential minister are still very active participants in almost all the programmes organised by the



Families and friends of the victims wail (right) after a devastating fire at a wastepaper warehouse in the city's Sutrapur area early yesterday left three boys burnt alive.



Revellers reined in... young people welcomed the New Year near the Sangsad Bhaban in presence of police (right) while Vice-chancellor Professor AK Azad Chowdhury along with senior teachers of Dhaka University and the Commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police were on close vigil to make sure that no untoward incident takes place (right). Police and riot police were deployed at trouble-prone areas in the city to keep the unruly revellers at bay on the New Year's eve.

Anti-terrorism movement launched

Lawyers, journalists and cultural and human rights activists of the country under the banner of 'Antiterrorism Peace Movement' held peace rallies across the country yesterday with a call to build a terrorism-free society in the new century, reports UNB.
As part of the central programme, workers of the movement led by Barrister Amirul Islam brought out a colourful procession from Ramna Botamal to Central Shaheed Minar.
The rally ended through a declaration of the movement and administering oath to the participants against terrorism.
"The commitment of the new century: Right to development in a terrorism free society" was the main slogan of the rally.
A large number of lawyers, NGO workers, cultural and human rights activists took part in the rally.
All the District Bars held similar rallies today.

Tempo helper shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent
A tempo helper was shot dead by the unidentified miscreants at Manda in the city's Sabujbagh area yesterday evening, hospital sources said.
The dead was identified as Masum Sikder, 20, son of Abdul Karim Sikder, a residence of Kurma WAPDA Colony.
A gang of miscreants shot Masum when he was going to his uncle's house at Manda at about 5:30 pm yesterday. The armed gang opened fire on Masum when he reached near the Mollah Hotel at Manda.
The miscreants shot him repeatedly. Masum died on the spot.
The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.
When contacted Sabujbagh police said no case was filed in this connection.

Frustrated JCD workers allege Identified terrorists favoured, dedicated activists ignored

By Abul Kalam Azad
Muslem and identified terrorists have been favoured and students and dedicated activists ignored in formation of Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) units at different levels, party insiders said.
Dedicated leaders and workers were sidelined in formation of the central and the Dhaka University units of JCD. A large number of JCD activists have become frustrated and given up student politics because of this, they said.
Problems in JCD began after formation of its central body with Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie and Habi-un-Nabi Sohel as president and general secretary respectively in 1996. Both Annie and Sohel were non-students then.
Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu who was then vice-president of JCD began conspiracy against the Annie-Sohel committee as he was sidelined because of allegation of criminal activities against him.
Pintu, who allegedly masterminded some terrorist activities at DU and some other educational institutions in the city, enjoyed blessings of some BNP high-ups, the insiders said.
Pintu succeeded in getting the Annie-Sohel committee dissolved by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in 1998. He also managed formation of a new central committee and to capture the post of general secretary. Sohel was made president of the new committee. This frustrated most of the JCD activists.
Sohel had started student politics as an armed cadre of the then Illius group, which mostly comprised non-students and alleged criminals.
With support from some BNP hardliners, Pintu then tried to establish his supremacy in JCD only for his personal gains.
Pintu developed good relations with Khaleda Zia's private secretary Masoddek Hossain Falu and managed to induct all his men into the JCD central committees. Even his 'bodyguards' and a peon at the JCD central office became members of the central committee, the insiders said.
The dedicated workers rejected the 205-member Sohel-Pintu committee, formed mostly with muslem, non-students and "identified terrorists", they said.
Shahabuddin Laltu, now general secretary of JCD, was sidelined when the Sohel-Pintu group was formed. There were also clashes on the DU campus centring formation of the Sohel-Pintu committee, in which Laltu was severely injured by Pintu's men.
Khaleda Zia suspended activities of both the central and the DU units of JCD on July 7 following a fierce gunfight between Pintu and Laltu groups on the DU campus on July 2.
Khaleda Zia at a meeting with top leaders of JCD on December 18 revived activities of the DU unit of JCD. On December 23, she announced the new JCD central committee with Pintu and Laltu as its president and general secretary respectively.
But the rank and file in JCD rejected the committee and held demonstrations in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country demanding its dissolution.
In the city, the JCD activists torched its central office, attacked residences of two top BNP leaders, fired gunshots, blasted crackers and damaged vehicles.

20 unnatural deaths in last 19 days

Twenty unnatural deaths were reported in the country in last 19 days till December 30, police said, reports UNB.
Of them, seven died in Mymensingh, four in Comilla, two each in Sylhet, Gazipur and Jamalpur and one each in Feni, Pabna and Munshiganj districts.
Police said seven people were killed and 30 others injured in separate traffic mishaps in last five days in Mymensingh till December 26.
The deceased were identified as Fazal Mia, 30, Morjina, 9, Hashim Uddin, 35, Joygunnesa, 60, Anwara Khatun, 35, Ajit Pal, 35, and Abdur Rahman, 35.
Five critically injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.
In Comilla, tempo passenger Selim, 60, was killed when the vehicle hit by a speedy microbus turned turtle on Companyganj-Nabinagar road near Bogra Bazar Bridge in Muradnagar upazila on Friday. Another passenger Montaj Begum was injured in the accident. Police arrested driver of the bus.
Solaiman Ahmed, son of Chan Mia of village Chandshikara in Choudagram upazila was beaten to death on December 11 by rivals over a land dispute.
Local people caught one of the four-armed miscreants Mahbulul Haq, 35, on December 27 while committing snatching on Kanail bridge in the same upazila. They beat him mercilessly.
He was rushed to the local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.
On the following day Kotwali

3 killed, 50 hurt as villagers clash in Sylhet

SYLHET, Jan 1: Three people were killed and 50 others injured in a clash between rival villagers over fishing at the Rangauti beel here this afternoon, reports UNB.
Witnesses said, both the groups used country-made firearms and other lethal weapons during the clash.
Police rushed to the spot and recovered three bodies of which one was identified as Sarab Uddin, 23.
Of the injured 10 were admitted to Osmani Medical College Hospital. Conditions of two, pierced by harpoon, are stated to be critical.
Two cases were filed with Kanaighat police.

72 Thai fishermen arrested from Mongla port

BAGERHAT, Jan 1: Navy patrol teams arrested 72 Thai fishermen aboard three trawlers from Mongla port on Sunday on charge of fishing in Bangladesh territorial waters, reports UNB.
Mongla police produced them before the court of a first class magistrate today and the court sent them to the district jail.
Earlier in November and December last year, Navy patrolmen arrested 194 foreign fishermen and seized a number of trawlers from the bay.
They also arrested 23 Thai fishermen with 1040 rounds of bullet in their possession on December 16.

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