

Engr Humayun murder: PW cross-examined

By Court Correspondent

Mohammad Enamul Kabir, the first prosecution witness as well as the complainant in the sensational Engineer Humayun Kabir murder case, was cross-examined in the fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday.

The judge, Syed Aminul Islam adjourned the proceedings of the case till 11 am today.

Enamul in his statement said he along with his nephew Mohammad Shakhat Hossain and elder brother Humayun Kabir (the victim) went to the residence of Faisal Ansari at 156, Azimpur Road in the city at about 7.30 pm on November 21, 1999.

Enamul said they then returned to his residence, leaving Humayun Kabir at Ansari's house. Humayun Kabir and for Ansari went to Dhanmondi to see a prospective bride, Enamul said.

He also told the court that at about 9 pm he received a telephone call from one of his relatives and came to know that his brother Humayun was shot at central road in Dhamondi area and rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He immediately went to DMCH and found his

brother dead. Enamul stated that Humayun Kabir had been in America as an Engineer since 1981 and he came to Bangladesh on November 13, 1999.

Enamul further said that his brother Humayun Kabir married to an American lady and to the best of his knowledge, the victim had no enmity with anybody in Bangladesh.

Humayun Kabir and Faisal Ansari were partners in oil business in America and later a trade dispute developed between the two, Enamul said, adding that Faisal Ansari and his brother Chapal Ansari had killed Humayun Kabir in a pre-planned way to grab whole property of the victim.

Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam, APP Faizuddin Bhuiyan and A FM Abdul Wadud appeared for the state while Advocate Sirajul Haq, Abdur Razzaq Khan and Humayun Kabir for the accused.

The accused Faisal Ansari, now in the jail custody, was present in the court while Chapal Ansari and others are still at large.

Textbook scam Sit-in in front of NCTB

By DU Correspondent

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), a left leaning student organisation, along with a number of school students, staged a sit-in in front of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) office in the city yesterday demanding punishment of the officials responsible for 'irregularities' in printing and supplying the textbooks.

The SCF brought out a procession from the Dhaka University campus at around 12 noon and marched towards the NCTB office.

Addressing a rally during the sit-in, SCF leaders announced that they would lay siege to the office of Pustaka, a Beximco concern, on February 3 to press home their demand.

Among others, Nurul Islam, Khokan Das and Ashrafuddin Akash addressed the rally.

Fear of fire
Garment factory
worker killed
in stampede

By Staff Correspondent

A woman worker was killed in a stampede in a garment factory, triggered by a fire at a nearby bitumen factory at East Nakhalpara in the city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Rokshana, 15, an employee of Patrick Group. She was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

The fire broke out at the bitumen factory of Nazrul and Brothers. Fire Brigade sources said the fire gutted a large number of drums containing bitumen and other goods.

Nine fire fighting units from Tejgaon, Kurmitola, Mohammadpur, Mirpur and the Fire Brigade Headquarters put out the fire, they said.

AL activist
murdered

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 28: AL activist Nasir Molla, 35, of Mongla was murdered on Friday night at village Amurburha under Svarankhola thana of Bagerhat district.

His body was recovered from a canal of the same village yesterday.

Police said Nasir might have been killed as a sequel to previous enmity with one of two alleged killers who took Nasir to Svarankhola in a motor bike at gunpoint.

Edn Policy

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effective policy to raise skilled manpower in the country," he told the House.

Prof Abdul Mannan, Dr Alauddin Ahmed, Hafiz Ahmed Majumdar, Dhrendra Devnath Shambhu and Principal Abdus Shabeed took part in the general discussion praising Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Education Minister and members of National Education Policy preparation committee for giving the nation its first policy on education.

"I feel proud and fortunate of framing the national education policy as the previous one was framed 150 years ago," he said, adding that attempts were made in 1952, 1957 and 1969 but failed due to obstruction by the then rulers. People had felt the necessity for change in the education policy since 1854.

Even attempts to formulate an education policy went in vain in 1979, 1983 and 1988, he informed the House.

The Education Minister said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib had constituted Qudrat-e-Khuda education commission in 1972. The report was placed to Sheikh Mujib in 1973, but it was not formally adopted by the then government as the move was thwarted.

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hostel is not prestigious since hostels are perceived as virtual brothels, it said.

Living in mess is also not secure, as women garment workers remain fearful of attack by local touts, pimps, drug addicts and above all, by the landlords and their sons.

Streets in Dhaka city are risky for commuting, especially for women. About 75 per cent of mishaps encountered by female workers take place on street.

Such incidents include attack by mafias and harassment by police and youths on streets. About 70 per cent of the female bus commuters said they experienced bad behaviour from bus conductors and drivers. Kidnapping also occurs on streets.

ILO study

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave away Bangladesh Police Medal and President's Police Medal to selected policemen at the inaugural ceremony of the Police Week 2001 at Rajarbagh Police Lines yesterday.

-Star photo

PM: Apply PSA cautiously

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Hasina said that ensuring law and order is the precondition for the country's development and her government was working from the beginning to achieve this goal.

She said police has a great responsibility and the government has taken several steps for them to work properly.

Hasina said soon after assuming power, "we tried to identify the problems of the police department and took steps to resolve them."

Earlier, the Prime Minister inspected the parade and took salute from a contingent of the police force.

Later, she distributed Bangladesh Police Medal (BPM) and President's Police Medal (PPM) to selected policemen for their courageous role in combating crime last year.

Hasina declared Tk 5 crore for education of the children of the members of the police forces and for proper treatment of those

police force.

The Prime Minister said it is not possible for the police to achieve total success in curbing crime without cooperation from the people. "Application of law will become easier for the police if citizens are respectful to the laws of the land."

Mentioning the risk allowance given to the policemen by her government for the first time, Hasina said the world of police has become too much risky as nowadays the culprits possessed bombs, bullets, guns and other sophisticated weapons.

She regretted that on-duty police were being "attacked by gun fire or bomb during the programmes of different opposition political parties." As a result, policemen receive injury, become paralysed or even killed, she said.

Hasina announced the introduction of a new telephone system in the Dhaka Metropolitan Police so that people can reach the police quickly. The new 1000-line exchange has 999 dialling. The exchange was scheduled to go into operation yesterday.

police who became paralysed or sick during duty.

Referring to the steps taken to meet the residential problem especially of constables, she said the government allocated Tk 12.70 crore for building new barracks in the capital and another Tk 12.30 crore for extension of the barracks in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Dinajpur, Bogra and Mymensingh.

The Prime Hasina assured that the government would allocate additional budget this year for welfare and development of the police forces.

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Terrorists ransack garments factory in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

Nearly 150 people have been killed since the start of January in a resurgence of violence that took hold during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan, which ended near the close of December. More than 250 people were killed during Ramadan.

The attack occurred between 11 pm and midnight Saturday in a hamlet of Oued Fares in the Chlef region, some 210 kilometres (some 130 miles) west of the Algerian capital, according to the sources, who spoke on condition that they not be named.

Security forces blanketed the area Sunday morning in search of the attackers.

The armed men broke into two homes, surprised their victims in their sleep and slit their throats, according to the sources, who added that 11 people lived in one of the homes and 13 in the other.

Most of the January violence has occurred west of Algiers, around Chlef and Ain Defla, some 140 kms (some 85 miles) from the capital, as well as around Medea.

Further information was not immediately available.

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The miscreants also chopped the security guard of the factory and damaged a van of the mill.

According to sources, the security guard of Fair Apparels Ltd resisted a group of terrorists while they were taking heroin on the factory premises on Wednesday last.

Following this incident, the gang led by one Jasim, 25, attacked the factory at 10 pm on Saturday.

They fired some bullets, exploded bombs and ransacked the factory.

They beat up and chopped the security guard Kalimullah. He was taken to hospital in a critical condition.

A case was filed with Fatullah thana but none was arrested.

Sumon

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to the city on Friday night. He is now under a five-day remand.

The sources said Sumon denied his involvement in the killings and said that some criminals in Sutrapur area were behind the incident.

Police interrogated him for about five hours on the first day of remand yesterday.

Police so far arrested 20 people in connection with the killings. They are looking for the rest of the accused, the sources said.

Son of a leader of Dhaka city Mohila Awami League, Sumon is charged with killing two youths at the Rifle Club at Sutrapur in the city on September 15 last year.

Bodies of the victims -- Sayem, 19 and Mohsin 18 -- were recovered from a manhole near the Loharpool in the area on the next day.

The issue was raised at the recently concluded meeting of the JRC on January 12-13.

Bangladesh pressed for an interim agreement on the river to meet the urgent needs before a complete agreement. But the Indian side had reportedly offered a 10 per cent flow, which was turned down by Bangladesh.

Bangladesh pointed out that there had been an interim agreement in 1983 for the Teesta. The Indian side reportedly agreed to consider it but would not say when it would be signed.

The International Jute Council (IJC), the highest decision making body of IJO, in October last year accepted recommendations of the working group of IJO for a successor organisation.

The IJO formed in 1985 is being liquidated as EU members of the Dhaka-based UN body on jute were reluctant to extend further cooperation, alleging that it has failed to prove its potential.

There are criticisms that that the IJO failed to make jute competitive with cheaper and more durable synthetic materials.

The 25-member IJO was formed under an agreement initiated by UNCTAD in Geneva. About 10 million people depend on jute industry directly or indirectly, sources concerned mentioned.

Later, the rebels in the JCD held a rally at the city BNP office at Nasimmon Bhaban with former JCD city president Mohammad Ali in the chair.

At the meeting, they declared Pintu persona non grata in Chittagong.

Bushra murder

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Ahmed is still at large.

Rushdania Bushra alias Pintu, a college student and daughter of a retired police officer, was raped and killed at their Hazipara residence in the city's Rampura area on the night of July 1 last year.

In a message to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Aga Khan expressed deep distress on learning of the loss of life and property in the earthquake that struck Western India on Friday, says a press release.

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Special public prosecutors Abdur Rezak Khan and M A Bar appeared for the state while Advocate Mahbub Ahmed and Shamim Ahsan for the accused.

All was promoted to secretary in December 1999.

By-election to Satkhira-1 JS seat Feb 28

By-election in Satkhira-1 (Kalaroa-Tala) constituency will be held on February 28, according to the schedule announced by the Election Commission yesterday, reports UNB.

The last date for submission of nomination papers is February 4, scrutiny of nomination papers is February 5 while withdrawal of candidature is set for February 12.

The seat fell vacant following the death of Syed Kamal Bakth Saki on December 15.

CPB rally

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incident.

Besides party leaders, some witnesses to the January 20 incident may also address the rally. CPB activists from across the country will attend the protest rally.

Processions and demonstrations will also take place at district headquarters as per schedule, the sources said.

Meanwhile, CPB General Secretary Mujahid Islam Selim at a press briefing yesterday reiterated his appeal for assistance for rehabilitation of families of the blast victims.

The sources said 13 of the injured are still undergoing treatment. Some of them may need treatment for more than a year, one source said.

Relying to a query, Selim said people from various walks of life have so far deposited Tk 3.51 lakh for treatment and rehabilitation of the victims. The party has spent Tk 1.75 lakh, he said.

He appealed to people to donate more money for the rehabilitation programme. Donations can be deposited with Deposit Account No. 9126, Janata Bank, Purana Paltan Branch, Dhaka.

Jubo Dal rally

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The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.