

Jail Killing Case

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for recording deposition of the complainant of the case as he (complainant) appeared before the court.

After hearing both sides, the judge adjourned the proceedings for Manzoor's sickness in the court room and filing a criminal revision petition pending with the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

The court also directed the jail authority to produce the jail doctors before the court for reporting regarding the health condition of Manzoor.

Immediately after the court order, a doctor appeared in the court and said that the accused was completely well. The court further directed the doctor to check up the accused. The doctor checked the accused up and told the court that he (accused) was out of danger.

After hearing the doctor, the court directed the authorities concerned to take necessary steps for his treatment immediately.

However, an altercation between Shah Moazzem Hossain and PP Quamrul Islam was created following a submission made by the Special PP Mosarrar Hossain Kajol

on January 24 regarding the production of the accused before the court. But the court interfered to bring the situation under control.

Eight of the 21 accused Teheruddin Thakur, Shah Moazzem Hossain, KM Obaidur Rahman, Nurul Islam Manzoor Lt Col (dismissed), Syed Farroque Rahman, Lt Col (Retd) Sultan Shariar Rashid Khan, Major (Retd) Bazul Huda, and Major (Retd) Khairuzzaman are now detained at the Dhaka Central Jail. They were produced before the court during the hearing.

Four national leaders Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, AHM Quamruzzaman and Captain Mansur Ali were killed inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

The then DIG (Prison) Kazi Abdul Awad filed the jail killing case with Lalbagh thana on November 4, 1975.

Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam, Special PP Mosarrar Hossain Kajol appeared for the state while Advocate Abdul Majid Munshi, Hazi Nazrul Islam, ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul and SM Rafiqul Islam for the accused.



All Party Students' Unity (APSU) laid siege to the office of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) in the city yesterday demanding punishment of all involved in the textbook scam. Picture shows the APSU procession on its way to the NCTB office.

IOJ using students

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madrassahs, Azizul Haq delivers year-starting and year-ending Bayans (speech) in a large number of madrassahs in the city. He also takes classes as a visiting teacher in some of the madrassahs.

But committees of some city madrassahs do not invite Azizul Haq to their institutions on any occasion as he is known for political activities in madrassahs.

According to sources, authorities of the Jamia Rahmania Arbia Hakkania Madrassah near Saat Masjid in the city sacked Azizul Haq as a teacher about a year back as he had long been involved in motivating its students politically. Before

sacking, he was warned thrice. The madrassah authorities also expelled about 40 students, all followers of Azizul Haq, on disciplinary ground.

Then Azizul Haq and his followers took shelter in nearby Shia mosque area and started using the Noor Masjid. Police constable Badshah Mia was killed inside Noor Masjid on Saturday. The nearby two madrassahs - Jamia Mohammadia Arabia Madrassah and Nurani Amirul Quraan Board -also came under his influence.

Two bombs were recovered from Nurani Amirul Quraan Board madrassah yesterday.

PM slates use of religion

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said Khaleda is brooding over illegal means to unseat her government as she (Khaleda) has no trust in people and ballot.

The Prime Minister reminded that people had overthrown Khaleda's regime on charge of vote-rigging after holding farical elections on February 15, 1996. She said Khaleda failed to rule the country because of indecision, corruption and rigging in elections.

"We've ruled the country honestly and efficiently for the welfare of the people and none could bring any charge of corruption against us," she said, adding that her opponents could not prove any irregularity in buying Mig-29 even by raising the matter in parliamentary standing committee and court.

Hasina asked her partymen to relentlessly work for the people and strengthen Awami League for re-

election with people's mandate to make the country economically self-reliant.

The Prime Minister said she would hand over power to a caretaker government on completion of her term adding, the next general election would be held on time.

She warned of stern disciplinary action for any damage to the party's image and interest by any misdeed or by any individual whoever he may be. "There will be no room in the party for anyone found harming the party's image... I shall not allow anything that might erode people's confidence in Awami League," she said.

Responding to anti-Awami League campaign by exploiters of religion, Hasina said these quarters always tried to undermine Bangabandhu and Awami League, but failed. The same vested groups have again resorted to false cam-

paign against Awami League to mislead the people, she added.

The Prime Minister recalled that the post-independence government of Bangabandhu established Islamic Foundation and Madrassah Board, and allocated the site for Biswa Tablig Jamaat. Besides, Bangladesh became the member of OIC during his rule, she said.

Narrating various development works for the advancement of Islam, Islamic education and culture, she said more than 5,000 schools and madrassahs were enlisted in MPO (monthly payment order) while Tk 125 crore were allocated for the development of national mosque Baitul Mukarram.

Awami League publicity secretary Abdul Mannan, Gaibandha district Awami League president Mohammad Khaleque and general secretary Shamsul Alam Hiru were present in the meeting.

Bomb blast: One of the victims identified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the victims of Saturday's bomb explosion in Mirpur was identified yesterday as Anwar Hossain, 42.

A rickshawpuller by profession, Anwar lived in Jamal's slum in Pallabi. He and the passenger on his rickshaw were killed in the bomb explosion in Pallabi's Alkodi area during hartal hours on Saturday.

The postmortem of Anwar's body was done at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. The body was taken away by Anwar's daughter Nazu, a garments worker, at about 2pm yesterday.

The identity of the other victim, the passenger, could not yet be known. None has so far claimed the body.

SUST dormitories

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18. Formalities for admission into the first year Honours classes are scheduled to resume from February 11.

The examinations were suspended due to the untoward incidents 10 days ago.

The students have called a press conference at Sylhet Press Club at 4 pm today. They would announce a fresh agitation programme including hunger strike at the press conference, sources said.

The agitating students demanded immediate withdrawal of cases lodged against some of their leaders and the show cause notices issued on them.

The students demanded congenial atmosphere on the campus.

The BCL, JCD and ICS criticised the authorities move to reopen the university without resolving the crisis.

SAARC economic confce

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the Summit and today's meeting should address these political issues which should help in resolving the politics and pave the way for holding of the Summit," the Nepalese Prime Minister said.

Business leaders attending the economic conference said there are some positive signs that the Summit, postponed several times, is going to be held.

"After a gap of some time, now we are seeing some positive signs in the official SAARC process," said President of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) Pradeep Kumar Shrestha.

"We are encouraged by the

positive movement. We hope the SAARC summit will take place soon and it will give a boost to the regional cooperation process," he told this correspondent at the conference venue at Hotel Soaltee Crown Plaza. Shrestha went on, "I hope the governments realising the cost of non-cooperation, particularly in the context of globalisation and WTO, would expedite the process of regional and sub-regional cooperation."

Talking to The Daily Star, SAARC Secretary General Nihal Rodrigo also expressed optimism about holding of the Summit and said, "There are positive signs."

He however did not give the expected date of the Summit.

AL plans to unmask

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fanatics" who murdered a police constable inside a mosque.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru said movement in favour of fatwa is illegal till disposal of the issue by the higher judiciary.

He said the demand for hanging the judges who declared fatwa illegal amounts to contempt of court.

"The fanatics who use religion for petty party interest do maximum harm to Islam", the law minister said.

"People of the country are pious but it does not mean that they support such fanaticism. We must face the fundamentalist forces with patience," he said.

The AL leaders said big parties, whether in power or in the opposition, should sever links with fanatics and stop patronising them.

They said these forces would not have raised their heads without patronisation from bigger parties.

Awami League, which is planning early electioneering from late this month or early next month, will try to expose these fanatic forces

and their patrons before the electorate, they said.

The party would campaign against the defeated forces of 1971 and also religion-based rightist parties which want to capitalise on peoples' religious sentiment in mustering votes for the anti-AL block, they added.s

Case filed

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The IOJ chief, however, was not accused in the case under PSA but his son was accused in both the cases. Police said they raided different places in the city to arrest the two but could not trace them.

Police produced the arrested before the CMM's Court yesterday and prayed for five-day remand of three of the accused in the murder case. They are Humayun Kabir, Akram Hossain and Hizbullah.

The court placed them on three-day remand and sent the others to Dhaka Central Jail.

'Abortive attempt' on BNP MP's life in Jhenidah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The BNP MP Alhaj M Shahid-uzzaman Beltu escaped an assassination attempt on him on Friday night, family source said.

According to delayed information, some miscreants entered his Kalabagan residence in Jhenidah town by breaking two gates. The miscreants, however, fled when his neighbours came out hearing the sound of gate crushing.

Beltu said it was an abortive attempt on his life. "The armed miscreants wanted to kill me", he said.

"My growing popularity may be one of the reasons behind such an attempt on my life with the help of armed miscreants hired by those who were defeated in the last parliamentary elections", Beltu said.

According to a source in Jhenidah BNP, Shahiduzzaman Beltu is at present having strained relations with leaders of divided 'Zia Nagorik Forum'.

"A third force" may be involved in attempt on his life, a Jhenidah BNP leader said.

Beltu has filed a general diary with Jhenidah Sadar thana seeking security of his life.

Bomb scare

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The telephone call was received by the secretary of the vice-chancellor at his office at 9:40 am.

The anonymous caller told the secretary that a time bomb was planted in a building on the campus and operation would be launched at noon as per order of a 'high command'.

But the phone caller did not specify in which building the bomb was planted, CU administration and police sources said.

The authorities however immediately suspended the classes and examinations, urging all to go for safety cover vacating the buildings on the campus, they added.

Police immediately cordoned off the campus started scarching all buildings on the campus. They could not detect anything till filing of this report at 2 pm.

Nigerian laments

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unable to go home.

The jail authorities told The Daily Star that Goddyu contacted the Nigerian High Commission in Dhaka through them in August last year. The High Commission promised that it would take immediate steps. But even after five months, Goddyu is still lamenting in jail.

Goddyu is one of the 27 foreigners who are virtual prisoners for years at the Dhaka Central Jail despite completing prison terms. Of them, 13 are from India, one from Pakistan, 10 from Myanmar and three from Africa.

Roy Mohan Dash, a 73-year-old Indian citizen, arrested in September 1998 for not having a passport, died of heart attack at the Dhaka Central Jail on January 30.

The jail authorities recently received orders to send home 13 out of these 27 unfortunate foreign nationals. But none of them can leave the jail for one reason or the other.

There are 57 foreign prisoners in Dhaka Central Jail now.

'Ustad' was inside mosque

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behind setting up of at least eight madrassahs in the housing complex area.

But all these madrassahs were built illegally on public lands without any plan whatsoever.

The mosque in which Badsha Mia was killed is adjacent to Noorani Taliban Quran Shikha Board, a tinshed madrassah complex with dormitories accommodating over 350 students aged between five and 20.

The madrassaha has a total of 208 'dedicated' teachers.

Following the killing of Badsha Mia, police recovered two bombs with remote control devices from the same madrassah. Police said it was a "pair of very sophisticated bombs, which can be made only by experts".

Army bomb experts did not check those till five pm yesterday.

Local people said Kari Belayet and his six sons, who own a seven storied apartment block nearby, runs the entire business of the institution. They said the 'teachers' of the madrassah held regular meetings in the madrassah complex and some of them even had "strong connections" with other countries.

A resident of Mohammadia Housing said that the reason why so many madrassahs mushroomed in the area is that there were lots of unclaimed public lands. These fell in the hands of these so-called religious leaders. Poor children from different areas the country were brought there.

The entire madrassah complex remained cordoned off by police yesterday. About 30 students, aged less than seven years, were left behind by the staff and senior students.

A police official said these children came from other districts with their fathers or guardians. They can not go home alone.

Raising funds

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constable Badsha Mia inside Noor Masjid adjacent to the madrassah during the dawn-to-dusk hartal called by a section of Islamic scholars.

Police recovered from the madrassah sharp weapons and several bundles of receipts for collecting money for the fund. Each receipt is for Tk 10.

When asked by newsmen, some students of the madrassah said their principal, Moulana Abul Kalam, has created the fund. The Principal has been absconding since the killing of the police constable.

By-polls

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Today is public holiday in the constituency to facilitate the voters to exercise their franchise.

BNP and its two allies are boycotting the by-polls.

The Election Commission has completed its preparations for holding the election in a peaceful manner. Security personnel, including paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles have been deployed at different strategic points of the constituency to ensure peaceful polling.

Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed is likely to fly to the Pabna-5 constituency this morning. He will return to the capital in the evening.

Block 16: Shell Oil

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Shell submitted earlier a drilling budget of 20 million dollars to the Petrobangla Board. The board negotiated item by item and in some cases, expressed reservations about some of the estimates.

But now both Petrobangla and Shell believe that it would be unwise not to drill a well in Magnama where the prospect of finding gas is bright. Some even anticipating an oil field there.

Yesterday's JRC meeting began with a question whether Shell would be able to complete the drilling of Magnama by May 5. Shell said that it would not be able to mobilise its rig from South Sangu to Magnama before late April. In addition, since it was a deep-sea area, Shell needed to build strong structures to begin drilling there. Therefore, Shell should be given ample time for the operation.

Typically, the PSC provides an opportunity to the oil companies to

apply for an extension of 90 days prior to the termination of the contract in case of failure to fulfil the work due to natural disaster.

However, in case of US company Occidental's PSC for block 12 where the company sought extension of only 6 days prior to contractual termination, the government made an exception and okayed its extension.

Sources said that there was no reason why Shell's PSC would not be extended if it applied for it, as Shell had no record of negligence and disaster in Bangladesh, unlike Occidental.

Shell is currently busy completing the additional drilling of South Sangu where it found an extension of the Sangu gas field one year ago. It is hoped that the gas reserve of this field would be much bigger than initially thought.

Govt conspiring:Khaleda

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tration there.

The leader of the Opposition in parliament again accused the government of killing seven people in bomb explosion at a grand rally of the Communist Party in the capital on January 20.

"To cover up their failures, they (the ruling party) killed a policeman," the former Prime Minister said.

She said the government that couldn't ensure security of public life and property has no right to stay in power. "Time has come to topple the autocrat, corrupt and failure government."

The BNP Chairperson said the four parties had been united to unseat the government and free the people from their clutches.

"Ershad will be freed after unseating the government," she said amidst claps and cheers at the hometown of the former President.

She said the four-party alliance will state demonstration in front of the Secretariat on February 18 and urged people of all walks of life to make it a success to get freed from the clutches of the autocratic Awami government.

The rally was also addressed by Jatiya Party presidium member MA Matin, Jamaat Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami, IOJ chief Maulana Azizul Haq, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and JP secretary general Nazimur Rahman Manzu. Alhaj Karimuddin Bharasa of JP presided.

EC mission

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Election Monitoring Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) for smoothly conducting the forthcoming general election.

The CEC said that Election Commission is determined to ensure a free, fair and transparent parliamentary election to be held this year.

With this objective in view, he said Election Commission would invite impartial, neutral and reputed foreign and local observer groups to monitor the process of election.

The NAM made some other recommendations on the experience gathered after their weeklong stay in Bangladesh. Earlier, they had another meeting with the Election Commission on January 28.

Besides, during their stay in Dhaka, the NAM held meetings with the leaders of the political parties, organisations, groups and individuals who would be involved in the next general elections.

DGER of European Commission Sandro Cerrato led the NAM delegation.

Election Commissioners Abidur Rahman and Safiur Rahman and Secretary of the Election Commission Secretariat M Anwar Hossain were present in the meeting.

Opposition slates

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The leaders said that the government in a bid to make political gains is pushing the country towards suicidal conflicts through instigating the Muslims and NGOs. Killings of a police constable and two others are clear evidence of this provocation, they alleged.

They said that the government has failed miserably in its duty to protect political activists in their rallies and programmes. It also failed to maintain the sanctity of mosques, temples and other places of worship, they said.

The opposition leaders warned that the people of the country would foil Awami League's conspiracy to push the nation into chaos by ousting the government through mass movement.

Meanwhile, the Central Liaison Committee (CLC) of the four-party opposition alliance has protested arrest of IOJ secretary general Fazlul Haq Amini and others. It said the arrests were made as the AL has become scared of the current movement.

The CLC demanded immediate release of Amini and others. It also condemned police raid on the residence of IOJ Chairman Azizul Haq.

Curfew in Srinagar

REUTERS, Srinagar

Authorities in India's troubled Jammu and Kashmir state imposed an indefinite curfew on most parts of

its summer capital yesterday after unidentified gunmen shot dead six Sikhs and wounded five others, police and witnesses said.

Police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed and security patrols were intensified in most parts of Srinagar, a police official said.

He said security had been tightened up in Sikh dominated areas across Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state.

"No untoward incident has so far taken place," the police official told Reuters.

Unidentified gunmen shot dead six Sikhs and wounded five others on Saturday evening in the Mahjoor Nagar area of Srinagar.

The attack came a day after Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistan's military ruler General Pervez Musharraf held their first conversation in more than a year, prompted by the devastating earthquake in western India.

ADAB rally

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They said Saturday's killing of constable Badsha Mia proved that the fundamentalist and communal forces want to use the mosques and madrasahs as centres of their anti-liberation and anti-democracy activities.

"Their intention is now clear to the people as the conspiracy has been unmasked through their activities in the name of hartal. But the religious-minded people of the country would not let them to be succeeded," they said.

The ADAB leaders demanded immediate arrest of all involved in the killing of police constable, including Islami Okya Jote leader Azizul Haq, and their punishment as per law of the land.

Amini arrested

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could not save themselves from police action.

Most of the activists were picked up from the road, and others from shops and establishments in the area during police raid.

Police search for the followers of Ulema-Mashaikh was continuing till filing of this report last night.

The angry policemen were seen abusing the activists saying, "We will teach you all what is Zihad."

The arrested were taken to Motijheel thana. When contacted, police, however, failed to give the specific number.

Police, during the operation, were seen abusing photojournalists and preventing them from taking photographs.

Earlier at the rally, Ulema-Mashaikh (Islamic Scholars) vowed to continue their movement against the NGOs. Dhaka city unit president of Islami Shashantantra Andolon presided over the rally which was addressed, among others, by Shafiq Uddin, Bahauddin Zakariya, Joinul Abedin, Sheikh Lokman Hussain and Belayet Hossain.