

Shamsur Rahman

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class magistrate in the court of CMM, Dhaka last year.

Janakantha Journalist Shamsur Rahman was gunned down in his Jessoras office at 8:20 pm on July 16 last year. His wife filed a case with Jessoras Kotwali thana in the morning of July 18.

According to a reliable source, the ministry of Home Affairs has asked all units of the police department all over the country to immediately arrest Litu, Hirok and Kalu.

Messages have already been sent to all border points of the country to prevent them from going to India. The police headquarters has also asked for dockets of all other criminal cases recorded against Litu, Hirok and Kalu with different police stations.

Police raided Litu and Hirok's Khulna houses several times, but failed to arrest them.

According to CID, Litu masterminded the murder of Journalists

Second Buriganga Bridge opens

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Shamsur Rahman. Because, the slain Journalist wrote a series of reports on how the ward commissioner-cum-Jubo League leader maintained an organised gang of armed criminals in the southwestern zone for committing murders and other heinous crimes.

Jessore journalists yesterday warned the investigation officer (IO) not to save the real culprits and damage merit of the case by implicating innocent men.

"We shall not let this murder go unchallenged until and unless the killers and their godfathers are punished through an impartial trial," said Kiron Saha, president of Jessoras Journalists' Union.

Hundreds of people went to the court chanting slogans demanding trial of the case in the special tribunal and arrest of the real culprits.

Tight security was arranged in and around the court building and also at the residence of the slain journalists.

IU reels under loans

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Commission (UGC) during his tenure.

Although the commission did not sanction salaries to the newly appointed employees, the authorities have to pay them from the university's own fund, which is one of the key factors in the present crisis.

At present, the authorities have to spend Tk 10.5 crore every year on salaries of the teachers and other employees, while the UGC provides only Tk 7.14 crore.

The regularisation of sanction to the new appointments is still undecided due to lack of prior approval of UGC.

The current budget deficit of the university is about Tk 3.85 crore every year. The authorities already increased all kinds of tuition fees two years ago to make up for the short-

houses, Khaleda drew house rent from the exchequer as the prime minister.

But it was found that there was a 10-katha plot at Joarshahara and a bank account of Tk 10 lakh in the name of Zia, she said and questioned how Khaleda and her family could become the owners of scores of taka overnight having Marshal Distillery, Dandy Dyeing, Rahman Industries and luxurious launches Coco-1 to Coco-6.

"People want to know how broken suitcases and torn vest of Zia could turn into a magic box making Khaleda's the richest family," the prime minister said.

Calling Khaleda a great liar, Hasina questioned how 83 voters from her house could be enlisted in the election rolls. How Khaleda could fill up her voter form by showing her academic qualification as HSC when she could not even pass matriculation.

She admitted Khaleda's past campaign that 'Azan' would not be heard from mosque if Awami

League was voted to power and the world would turn into India if the CHT peace accord was signed.

People at the meeting shouted "no, no" by raising their hands when Hasina asked whether 'Azan' was replaced with 'Uludhan' or whether the area from CHT to Feni was ceded to India.

The PM said the opposition even resorted to falsehood about mosque and spoils the sacred places by doing politics. They killed police in mosque and kept bombs and stones there to kill innocent people and police "presenting Islam to the outside world as a religion of terrorism."

"How Islami Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra Dal leaders could say that they would burn down my tasbih and burkha? Do they have any faith in Islam?" she asked and urged the God-fearing Muslims to say their prayers in mosques and protect its sanctity by mobilising public opinion against anti-liberation forces.

News Analysis

Battle over, time now for stock taking

Both BJP, Cong get down to organisational business

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It is time for stock taking for the ruling BJP and the principal opposition Congress, as results of last week's assembly elections in five states have significant implications for both.

The outcome may not rock the government of Atal Behari Vajpayee but have certainly hit the alarm button for the BJP. The Indian prime minister has himself admitted as much immediately on his return. The poll result has come as a "wake-up call for us," he said.

There would be fall-outs in two specific areas. First, the BJP will try to shore up the strength of the alliance it leads, especially after the exit of the Trinamool Congress. Second, the Congress, boosted by its victory in Kerala and Assam states, and the federally-administered territory of Pondicherry, will be more aggressive and seek greater co-operation with other opposition parties.

Spurred by the assembly election debacle, the BJP leadership held two days of brainstorming session with the leadership of its spiritual mentor RSS at a resort near Delhi. In the next couple of days, the BJP office-bearers will hold yet another two-day meeting in Mysore, the famous hill resort town in Uttar Pradesh. There is clearly an ideological churning within the BJP, which clearly came out in the interaction between leaders of the saffron party and the RSS a few days back.

When BJP came to power winning the 1999 general elections, its top leadership made it clear that a large part of its ideology had nothing to do with the business of governance. It might have been the party's justification for keeping on backburner its ideological tenets, including temple construction and

uniform civil code, in order to lead a rainbow alliance. But, as it later turned out, the BJP sought to use the stand as a shield against possible criticism from within its department can increase the government's strength by 15 to ensure that the parliamentary arithmetic is safe for the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The BJP is dangling the carrot of ministerial berths for these regional parties and the Trinamool rebels. Interestingly, Vajpayee said a few days back that he would expand his cabinet.

There are reports that Ajit Kumar Panja and three other Trinamool Congress MPs are ready to quit the party and join the Vajpayee government. Panja, for one, has been in most rebellious mood. He not only flayed Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee for quitting the BJP-led alliance and aligning with the Congress but also shared the electoral dais with Vajpayee and attended the swearing-in ceremony of Left Front ministry in Calcutta yesterday defying Trinamool's call for boycott of the event.

Meanwhile, both the BJP and the Congress are turning their attention to Uttar Pradesh where fresh assembly elections are due end of the year. Both parties are acutely conscious that capturing power in Uttar Pradesh holds the key to ruling India.

But both the parties are worried by the outcome of a parliamentary by-poll in Shahjahanpur constituency in the state. The Congress failed to retain the seat and the BJP was relegated from second to fourth position. The Samajwadi Party won the seat.

Consequently, the Congress and the BJP are trying to gear their organisational machinery to meet the challenge of the battle of power in Uttar Pradesh.

earlier, burst into anguish at the Ministry's indifference and the Standing Committee's reluctance in placing an investigation report on the alleged forgery.

The forgery involved procurement of a consignment of 12,000 MT of 'rotten rice' and another 'fake consignment' of 12,000 MT of rice from India in 1998.

A member of the Standing Committee said that Ramesh and Parijal Company of India took Tk. 30 crore against these two 'consignments'. The sub-committee found a 'major corruption' in the whole process and pressed the Standing Committee at several meetings earlier to allow it place its report before parliament.

After heated debates over the issue, the Standing Committee finally agreed to place the sub-committee report during the last session of current parliament beginning on June 6.

Committee members, Dr Alaudin Ahmed and Bharati Nandi of AL and Joinal Abedin Sarkar of Jatiya Party were also present at yesterday's meeting.

25pc rice procurement

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Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu could not be reached last night for his comment.

BNP member of the JS body, Shamsuddin Ahmed, who was present at the meeting, said he would not make any comment about the decision.

Initially, it was proposed in the agenda of the meeting that 50 per cent quota would be allocated to the Food Minister.

Allocation of such a big special quota ahead of the general election is considered politically significant.

The government's procurement target during the current Boro season (April 20 - July 31) is four lakh metric tons (MT).

"Under the reserve quota of the Minister, special allocations can be given to lawmakers for distribution at district level and outside their constituencies as well," the decision says.

The Standing Committee meeting, presided over by ruling party lawmaker Abdul Hakim, also took up another long-drawn issue -- 'food import forgery' -- for discussion yesterday.

Members of a sub-committee, formed by the Standing Committee

Legal systems

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Badarganj thana in Rangpur, Dr Siddique also found that corruption costs each of the villagers Tk 1001 a year and mis-governance Tk 500. Apart from this, a villager has to bear an extra cost of Tk 1501 a year thanks to corruption and mis-governance in 13 select government offices and authorities.

"This is not the total cost of corruption and only 10 per cent of what a villager pays because the study did not include the purchase tenders and food related programmes," said Dr Siddique at a seminar at the Grameen Bank auditorium yesterday.

She also calculated that six per cent of per capita income is wasted for corruption and if the cost of mis-governance is taken into account, it shots up to nine per cent.

According to the study, Tk 4596 crore is wasted across the country due to corruption and mis-governance. "This is only 10 per cent of the total," Dr Siddique said.

"But even this 10 per cent means 1.90 per cent of GDP."

The speakers at the seminar said honest political leadership is now needed to fight corruption. Some of them suggested that the government go for privatisation of some services to curb corruption.

"Strong political will holds the key to weeding out corruption," said Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, executive director of the BRAC, who chaired the seminar. "It is more necessary to eradicate corruption

from the higher level than lower level rent-seeking."

He also suggested that evaluation reports of all government contracts be posted on the Internet to ensure transparency and tackle corruption.

Domestic help at Hamdard Lab chairman's house found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mystery shrouds the death of a domestic help at a residence at Kakraili in the city.

Zakir Hossain, 15, hailed from Baufal, Patuakhali was working as domestic help at the residence of Yusuf Harun, chairman of Hamdard Laboratory.

He was found hanging with a scarf from the grills on the second floor of the house at mid night on Saturday night.

Hospital sources said there were marks of injuries in victim's body. Alamgir, caretaker of the house, found him hanging from the grill.

Police recovered the body and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

An unnatural death case was filed with Ramma police.

From criminal

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local people said.

In the early nineties, Mamun joined Chhatra League. He and his associates took over the MES College in the city and gradually built up a big terrorist force and arms cache.

From the MES College base, he controls Zakir Hossain Road, Khulshi, Nasirabad, Nizam Road and Mitford areas of the old city which might have resulted in the additional power disruption.

The Prime Minister's office had earlier asked the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to keep loadshedding in the city to a minimum during this lean season.

Residents of Kamlapur, Mugdara, Malibagh, Mogbazar, Green road, Kalabagan, Paribagh, parts of Dhamondi and Mohammadpur, and Demra, Postgola, Islampur and Mitford areas of the old city have been experiencing intolerable power disruption for about a week.

Another top BNP leader, who would not be named, held that the EC needs to be further strengthened before and after the election, and the Election Tribunal should dispose off the cases much more quickly.

A DESA official concerned said that DESA's system development work has been going on in some parts of the city which might have resulted in the additional power disruption.

The Prime Minister's office had earlier asked the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to keep loadshedding in the city to a minimum during this lean season.

He accumulated wealth worth crores of taka by grabbing railway property, and tender awards and

through extortion. He now has a spacious house, drives several cars, which in fact belong to different dealers, but no-one dares to raise voice against the crime lord because of his strong political connections.

It is widely known that Chittagong Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury is the prime source of Mamun's power. However, when contacted, Mohiuddin Chowdhury refuted such allegation. "My politics is transparent. I have been involved in politics from a very early age. I never needed a terrorist. I have people on my side."

Although Mamun has 19 cases against him, the police are actually pursuing only one case against him on charge of attacking journalists and newspaper office.

He was found hanging with a scarf from the grills on the second floor of the house at mid night on Saturday night.

He went on, "We have already placed funds with a foreign bank and now we are waiting for a clearance from Bangladesh Bank. We hope the vessel would be released soon."

A Bangladeshi consignee claimed a compensation of about Tk six crore against the damage of his cargo while carried by a BSC ship to Mongla port from Hull port of UK in 1999. The damage was caused as the BSC vessel was caught in a storm in the sea, Chowdhury mentioned.

The on-duty officers at Ramma thana said an unnatural death (UD) case was filed with the station on Saturday, which said the boy died of asthma.

Abdus Sattar and ASI Shah Alam were closed on Saturday on charge of torturing the teenager to death.

An inquiry committee led by Anwar Kamal, additional superintendent of police, Gazipur, has been formed to investigate the incident.

Haris fell prey to police

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giving", the young man died at ward no. 22 in the hospital.

Before Haris' death, Tongi police filed a case against the boy under the Arms Act and designated Abdus Sattar, one of the police assailants, for investigation.

Even after four days of the death yesterday, the body was lying at the DMCH morgue where his relatives were waiting outside for hours on end to take him for burial. Constable Delwar at the morgue told the Daily Star that the delay in carrying out autopsy was caused by the magistrate's mistake in his statement on the death.

"First it was reported that the

death was natural. Then it was suspected to be a murder, so the autopsy has been delayed," said a DMCH official. The body bore a few marks of injury in his feet.

The on-duty officers at Ramma thana said an unnatural death (UD) case was filed with the Mirpur police station till this report.

Earlier on Saturday, Jahangir Hossain, a resident of Hazi Mansoor Road at Noorbagh, succumbed to injuries he had sustained when miscreants hurled crackers on him at around 11:30pm. Fatally injured, Jahangir was rushed to the DMCH where the attending doctors declared him dead in the early hours

of the morning.

"Bangladesh will rise to the level of sustainable development if the current pace of progress continues for next five years," the minister said.

The ADP allocation for 2001-02, the terminal year of the present

cycle power plants have 25 years' life, Marubeni claims that its plant will last for 35 years.

Marubeni will not be accountable if the plant does not operate after 22 years.

Besides, all other Marubeni proposals did not actually offer anything financially better although those looked much lucrative than the AES contract, the Cell observed.

Rather, Marubeni's proposal regarding land development passes all risks on PDB, it said.

As per the contract signed for the Meghnaghata first phase plant, AES will supply power at a 'levelised' rate of 2.79 cents per kWh for 22 years.

Marubeni proposed more than 3.5 cents per unit in its original offer.

While most of the combined

cycle power plants have 25 years' life, Marubeni claims that its plant will last for 35 years.</p