

Corruption case Khoka, two others granted bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, the then state minister for youth and sports along with two others, accused in a corruption case, was granted bail yesterday.

The Court of Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Nurul Karim Mazumder, granted bail to them upon a bond of Tk 25,000 each with three guarantors.

Khoka, Wing Commander Mohiuddin Ahmad, former director (administration) of National Sports Parishad and Badaruddin Ahmad (budget cum-audit officer) and deputy director of National Sports Parishad in Chittagong division along with their lawyers appeared

before the CMM's Court, Dhaka yesterday and prayed for bail.

Court inspector Kazi Abdul Mannan opposed the petition and prayed for sending them to jail rejecting their bail petition.

After hearing both the sides the court granted them bail.

Khoka along with seven others while in office misappropriated Tk 3 lakh from government fund by misusing power.

Mohammad Farid Ahmed Patwary, Inspector of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed a corruption case with Motijheel thana against eight people including Sadek Hossain Khoka on August 24 in 1998.

EC suspends move

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across the country attended the three-hour meeting at National Economic Council (NEC) auditorium.

The CEC asked the EC officials in the meeting to maintain neutrality while discharging their responsibilities. He also advised them not to yield to any pressure or threat and inform him if they faced any adverse situation.

"The EC will come to your protection provided you make the institution credible by discharging your duties impartially. Otherwise, you will have to face sever consequence," the CEC was quoted to have told his colleagues in the meeting.

The meeting was informed that printing of the voter list has been completed while a central voters' database is almost complete.

Regarding ballot boxes, the meeting was of the opinion that the EC might need some more boxes in reserve to meet emergency needs. Presently, the EC has a total of 2,32,113 boxes, including some 31,000 new ones.

Among other issues, the meeting discussed women's right to vote in the coming polls, adequate stock of

Rally at Paltan

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headmasters of primary schools and washing charge for government employees equivalent to three months' pay.

The coordination committee consists of class III and class IV government employees.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Secretariat employees at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday urged all government employees' organisations to consider the reinstatement of 56 employees who were sacked during their agitation at the Secretariat in 1999.

Life-saving drugs

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used for treatment of brain, is Tk 40 each tablet.

Besides, Dithrophen 2.5mg made by Lorex in the UK which is an essential drug for critically ill kidney patients, is widely available as is Solu-Medrol, one of the most effective the world over for renal distress.

When contacted, a number of doctors said that some foreign drugs in question have been made legally available in developing countries like India and Pakistan.

"These drugs are latest and indispensable for treatment. Unfortunately in our country, none of them are allowed legally. Since they are available in the black market, why not make them accessible to the people?" said one leading surgeon.

On the issue of why multinational drugs companies in Bangladesh are not manufacturing some of these imported items, a nephrologist said, "Many local drug pharmaceuticals do not feel encouraged to develop these drugs since the demand is low compared to other medicines. They

see this issue from business perspective."

Meanwhile, the Drug Administration defended their position by saying that most of the drugs sold in the black market were 'luxury' items.

"They are prescribed in Western countries and they are expensive too. So there is no justification why we should allow the drugs," said an official at the DA.

In reply to another question the official, who requested anonymity, said, "There are alternative drugs being manufactured in Bangladesh and also imported if necessary."

But the Daily Star investigation found no alternative medication available for some of the drugs mentioned above.

A high official of health ministry said that the Drugs Control Committee has so far not received any requests or formal appeal for registration of such drugs. "If there are application I am sure the committee would consider."

BNP lawmaker finances

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Chittagong College and Mohsin College in the city, and the Satkania area.

In the absence of Nasir, Sajjad, the prime accused in the eight-murder case, leads the Shibir terrorists in the city. Other terrorists in his group include Bhagina Ramjan, BDR Selim, Gittu Nasir, Abib Khan, Mujibba (in jail), Sujaiya, Delwar, Ahmammad, Hamid, Tiger Farid, Alamgir, Mohammad Hossain Kauwa, Ismail, Kala Mahbub, Nazim, Chhuri Abdullah, Five-star Jashim, Abdul Kaiyum Limon, Alamgir Kabir Manik, Iqbal, Naikka Kajol, and Mahbub.

Repeated police attempts to nab Sajjad have so far bore no success. Their search operation is also hampered by the fact the photograph they have of Sajjad was taken when he was a student of class eight.

Sajjad always carries an AK-47 and keeps it in a bag while riding a bike, underworld sources said. He

owns two other AK-47s and is planning buy two more, they said.

Ahmaidda leads the mainstream Shibir cadres based in Satkania. His gang owns five AK-47s. Whenever Shibir carries out a big operation, Ahmaidda joins in.

Humayun and Yakub, two top-notch terrorist leaders of Shibir, own four AK-47s, 15 submachine guns and some 25 cut rifles.

Mukti, another accused in the eight-murder case, also owns an AK-47, and so does Kafi, who leads a group of Shibir activists. A vice-president candidate for the Chittagong Medical College students union, Kafi also owns a Chinese rifle. He was arrested long ago and has been on parole for nearly seven months now on the plea that he would sit for examinations.

Sources say that Shibir is now trying to reinforce its weaponry and has joined hands with a section of BNP leaders and SQ Chowdhury MP's terrorist groups.

3 killed in Tangail road accident

UNB, Tangail

Three people were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Motara area of Basail upazila yesterday.

Police said the accident took place in the morning when the driver of a Bogra-bound truck lost control over the steering and fell into a roadside ditch, leaving the three dead on the spot.

Two of the deceased were identified as Jalaluddin, 35, and Nazmul Huda, 18. The identity of other could not be known.

Police seized the truck, but its driver managed to flee the scene. A case was filed with police.

Yasmeen murder

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away with custodial deaths with impunity.

The deputy attorney general cited a report in Tuesday's papers about another recent custodial death, the likes of which are rising alarmingly. He also recalled the murders of Seema, Rubel and Jalal in custody.

"A clear signal must go from this court that these murders will not go unpunished. The punishment for offences committed by police should be harsher than when committed by ordinary people. It is clear in this case that the three accused were involved in rape and murder. Otherwise they would have put up some defence, particularly when they had a mentor like the then SP of Dinaipur going out of the way to hide their crime."

BB prescribes

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However, to improve the situation and their service, BB suggested a totally computerised banking system and a separate and better pay scale for NCBs. It also said that if performance evaluation system could be introduced in NCBs, it would bring about tremendous improvement.

Terming classified loans as the major problem for the banking sector, BB suggested reward for bank staff for realising stuck up loans and punishment for failure.

The BB also said lengthy legal process also delays realisation of classified loans. "In some cases, influential defaulters make it difficult for banks to go for legal steps to realise loans."

To get rid of this, BB suggested setting up of separate financial loan court at district level and appointment of more judges to deal with cases at these courts.

Border talks

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and also "adverse possession" of land in each other's territory.

Meanwhile, AFP from Guwahati says, Indian border guards yesterday asked Bangladesh troops to tighten their frontier controls.

BSF soldiers fired in the air Monday to ward off a group of 15 Bangladeshis allegedly trying to sneak into the northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya.

The incident prompted the BSF to hold a flag meeting with Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in an area of no man's land near Patharghat, 100 kilometres east of Meghalaya's state capital Shillong.

"We have asked BDR not to allow their civilians to trespass across the border to enter Indian territory," a senior Indian Border Security Force (BSF) commander, who did not want to be identified, told the news agency.

The border guards of India and Bangladesh were engaged in a bloody skirmish in April that led to the death of 16 BSF men and at least three BDR soldiers, causing tension between the otherwise friendly countries.

"The border is quiet and there is no abnormal troop build-up," he said.

India and Bangladesh share a 4,000-kilometre border.

Tipu

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was treated at the Orthopaedic Hospital in Dhaka.

The musclemen of ruling party MP Zainal Hazari abducted Tipu on the evening of January 25 from Feni Sadar and beat him up savagely. The terrorists left the spot presuming him dead.

Bir Pratik

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been decided that subject to the agreement of Ouderland's family members, the coffin of the deceased shall be wrapped in the national flag of Bangladesh.

In separate messages to Mrs Ouderland sent through the Bangladesh High Commissioner in Australia, the prime minister and the foreign minister recalled his valiant role in the struggle for independence and conveyed to his family members the deepest condolences on behalf of the government and people of Bangladesh.

BSS adds: Dutchman W A S Ouderland fought in the great Liberation War in 1971. Ouderland remained in Bangladesh till 1978 and was transferred to Australia thereafter.

He later settled in Australia and died after prolonged ailment at the age of 84 in a hospital at the Western Australian town of Perth on May 18 (Friday).

The World War II veteran who worked as the manager of Bata Shoe Company in Tongi from mid-1970 took part in the Liberation War in sectors I and II.



PHOTO: STAR

Visitors at the week-long second Young Artists' Exhibition of Japan-Bangladesh which began at the Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, yesterday. The exhibition will remain open from 2 pm to 8 pm daily till May 28.

Tale of a DCC demolition drive

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through Karwan Bazar at about 2 pm, local ruling party activists protested and asked the DCC team to leave.

DCC Estate Department official Sardar Kaiser Ahmed, who lead the team, then asked local AL leaders to remove the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from inside the office and expressed his determination to demolish the illegal structure.

One of the local AL leaders then said they would not remove the portrait. "We will not remove it. If you want to demolish it, do it keeping the portrait inside", he told Kaiser Ahmad.

In the meantime, a large number

of ruling party activists took position inside the office to resist the DCC team. Some of them were even heard threatening the DCC team that an untoward incident would take place if their office is demolished.

Then the AL leader told the DCC official, "You can not demolish our office before the election". He also said he will not mind if the DCC team does not demolish such illegal structure housing BNP office till the next election.

When he failed to convince the DCC officials, the AL leader then called up one 'Rabbi Bhai' over his mobile phone and said many party activists would be demoralised if the structure is demolished before the election.

After a few minutes' conversation, the AL leader gave his online mobile phone to the DCC official. The DCC official was heard saying, "I am doing this with the permission of Mayor".

He continued, "What do you want me to do now?"

As soon as the telephone conversation was over, the DCC team withdrew from there and started demolishing some other illegal makeshift structures.

When this correspondent, who was present on the spot, asked Kaiser Ahmed about this, he said they will demolish the illegal structure housing the AL office today.

Dhaka-Kolkata Biman flight suspended

UNB, Dhaka

The operation of Biman's flight on Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka route, BG 093 and BG 094, on Monday and Wednesday will remain suspended till further notice.

The decision was taken on commercial consideration and would come into effect from today, said a press release.

Pvt canteen at BFDC closed

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC) has closed a private canteen at its compound at Karwan Bazar on charges of pursuing grave amoral activities.

The BFDC closed the canteen, Messrs Latimi Food Products Limited, on Monday after Chalachitra Porichalak Samity, Chalachitra Shilpi Samity, Editors' Guild and Chitra Grahok Samity complained both written and verbally against it.

BFDC officials said apart from different amoral activities, even some artistes were also manhandled inside the private canteen. The BFDC authorities earlier tried to shut down the canteen on charges of anti-social activities and selling of illegal drugs and hard drinks, sources said.

The FDC authorities served notice to the management of the canteen for violating the code of conduct. But they failed to reply in a proper way, officials said, adding to maintain proper atmosphere in a government establishment, the canteen was locked in presence of the office-bearers of different organisations.

Jail Killing Case

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Bangabandhu and most of his family members on August 15, 1975. Major Dalim, Major Rashid, Major Shahriar and Major Faruk from the Bangabhaban, on behalf of the then president Khandakar Mustaque Ahmed, wanted to know about the detained political leaders.

The witness also said that at about 3 pm on November 3, 1975, a telephone call came from Maj Rashid saying some assailants might take away some political leaders from the jail. After a while another telephone call came from the Bangabhaban quoting Maj Rashid that Captain Moslem would go to the jail and talk to the four national leaders, the witness added.

Later, the witness said he talked to the then president Khondakar Mustaque Ahmed over telephone. President Mustaque ordered IG Nuruzzaman over telephone to follow Rashid's instruction.

After sometime, Captain Moslem along with four armed men came to

the jail. At gun point they took the IG and his colleagues to the cell where the four leaders were confined. Their (armed men) attitude was so dreadful that the witness along with others did not dare to do anything against their activities, Nuruzzaman added.

Nuruzzaman further said Captain Moslem also ordered the officials to bring the leaders to a single cell without delay. Later the leaders were brought to a single cell and murdered within a short time. The killers then left the scene. At about 10-30 am he (IG) along with DIG (Prison) Kazi Abdul Awal went to the then Home Secretary to report the incident.

The prosecution witness further said that he along with DIG (Prison) also went to the Bangabhaban to talk to Brig. Khaled Mosharrar about the incident. Khaled along with the then Air Chief and Navy Chief listened to them. Two colonels recorded their statements.

Nuruzzaman told the court, he

came to know that an inquiry commission headed by Justice Ahsanuddin was formed to probe the matter. But the commission could not proceed due to 'unavoidable circumstances.'

Eight of the 21 accused Taher Uddin Thakur, Shah Moazzem Hossain, K M Obaidur Rahman, Nurul Islam Manzoor, Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farukur Rahman, Lt Col (Retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Maj (Retd) Bazlul Huda, and Maj (Retd) Khairuzzaman are now detained at the Dhaka Central Jail. They were produced in the court during the hearing.

Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam, and Special PPs Mosharrar Hossain Kajol and Anisul Haq appeared for the state while Advocate T M Akbar, Hazi Nazrul Islam, Abdul Majid Munshi, Mohammad Hanif, and Abu Abdullah Bhuiyan for the accused.

Balanced approach a must to check water, air pollution

CERM launched at BUET

BSS, Dhaka

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria yesterday called upon the environmentalists to dedicate more enterprise in the field of research to ensure rapid economic growth of the country.

The minister was addressing as chief guest the launching ceremony of the "Centre for Environmental and Research Management (CERM) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) at its Council Bhaban in the city.

Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh David Preston, CERM Director Prof. Dr Md Mujibur Rahman, Project Manager Prof. Dr Mazharul Haq and head of the Civil Engineering Department of BUET M Feroze Ahmed also spoke at the function presided over by Vice-Chancellor of BUET Prof. Dr Nooruddin Ahmed.

The minister said environmentalists must play a pro-active role in involving people at all levels for protecting the nature. A balanced approach is needed to solve the fundamental problems of water and air pollution and global warming, he pointed out.

Referring to the recent report on 'Alfatoxin' found in poultry feed, the minister called upon the newsmen

One electrocuted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker of a residence at Zakir Hossain Road in the city's Mohammadpur area was electrocuted in the early hours of yesterday.

Zakir Hossain, 28, at house 20/B, came into contact with a live electric wire at about 1:30 a.m., when he went to the rooftop to fix the water pipeline.

The family members sent the fatally injured Zakir to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died at about 3:30 p.m. yesterday.

A case was filed with Mohammadpur police station in this regard.

Murshed Khan

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Police failed to prove through witnesses the charges brought in the FIR and in the charge sheet, Rakanuddin submitted and said the court will be satisfied if it examines all the case documents.

The HC Bench then made the Chittagong PSA Tribunal a respondent in the case and directed it to send all the case documents by a special messenger.

Hearing on another writ petition against the PSA continued yesterday. The petition was filed by Advocate Abdus Sobhan on behalf of some leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami. Sobhan said the PSA is inconsistent with the CrPC as the tribunal can let off any accused or make him a witness.

Hearing on other writs challenging validity of the PSA will continue today.

PM tells US envoy

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She said: "In the past, elections were rigged and people could not exercise their franchise. But now they'll be able to cast their votes without fear and favour under neutral caretaker government."

During the meeting, the US envoy informed the prime minister that she would go to her country soon and come back before the election.

During her stay in the USA, Mary Ann said, she would discuss with her government the Bangladesh issues, including double taxation extradition treaty and quota-free access of Bangladesh products.

Expanded Security Council

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said it should be 20 or 21. Since then, the US has shown some to the number. Let's say the number will be 24. It will create five more permanent seats, although Africa wants two permanent seats."

The Secretary General said, "When you look at Asia, some people think India will be a natural candidate because of its size and economic power. But countries like Pakistan will be totally opposed to it."

"But that selection will have to be made by the members belonging to the Asian region."

"When you turn to Africa, it will be Egypt, South Africa or Nigeria. The same is with Latin America where Brazil, like India, sees herself as a logical candidate. But Argentina and Mexico have different ideas."

"Indonesia could be one. Pakistan may try and there could be others too", Annan said.

A UN spokesman later told The Daily Star that ultimately there could be three categories of members in the reformed Security Council. The first group would comprise the original five permanent members wielding veto power, the second

to be more cautious in publishing such confusing news.

"More investigative and scientific reports should be disseminated in the national dailies and there is little room for creating sensation in those fields where our national interest is involved," he added.

The minister said the government would extend all-out support to any environment protection related effort as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina herself is keen to promote environmental issues for preservation of nature.

David Preston said Canadian government is actively involved in many environment management projects of Bangladesh. Recently Canadian government provided US\$ 10 million to a project of the Environment Ministry, he added.

BUET VC Prof. Nooruddin said hard rock found in the Modhyapara Hard Rock Mine should be utilised in construction work instead of bricks for protecting the nature. Encroachments on the river Buriganga and problems relating to two-stroke engines should also be resolved immediately, he added.

20th BCS exams Lecturers asked to join colleges by May 31

UNB, Dhaka

A total of 209 officials, appointed in the General Education cadre under the 20th BCS examination, have been posted in different colleges across the country as lecturer.

They newly appointed lecturers have been asked to join their respective colleges by May 31, said a PID handout.

Those who would not be able to join at their respective workplaces on the day are advised to join at the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Department in Dhaka.

Failure to join in the work by anyone would be considered as his/her unwillingness to accept the offer, and the appointment would be cancelled, the handout added.

PBCP

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nessman Alhaj Shahabuddin Ahmed. Post Master Monirul Islam witnessed the murder, police said.

Police quoting witnesses said three persons were found in the orchard where Nurul Islam was slaughtered. Police recovered a ramda, a crowbar and a stick from the place of occurrence. The victim was found wearing an ash coloured trousers, printed shirt and a wrist-watch when the body was disinterred.

Another murder was committed in the city on Monday morning at Tootpara. Rickshawpuller Monirul Islam allegedly strangled his two-year old daughter Mousumi. Monirul was drug addicted when he killed his daughter, police said. He was arrested at noon.

Manirul's wife Rozy lodged a case with Khulna thana in this connection.

The ambassador said she would also meet the congress committee of Bangladesh in the USA and join an Indo-Bangladesh business committee meeting there.

When the prime minister drew her attention to the US investment in Bangladesh that increased to one billion US dollar from a mere 20 million dollars under the present government, Mary Ann hoped the US investment would increase further in the country.

Foreign Secretary Syed Muazzem Ali, Prime Minister's Secretary Golam Rahman and Press Secretary Jawadul Karim were present at the occasion.

group comprising non-permanent members and the new third group having only the status of permanency but no veto power.

Kofi Annan, who toured South Asia recently said, "I personally want that this issue of UN reform and expansion should be brought to a conclusion in two years or so. I personally can not see that negotiations on the issue continue indefinitely."

Kofi Annan, a national of Ghana, who is set to win a second term as Secretary General of the 189-member world body, said he is happy that the United Nations can act as a catalyst for change in a troubled world.

Others who addressed the briefing session were Kieran Pendergast, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Kunio Waki, Deputy Executive Director of United Nations Population Fund.

Later the journalists had a meeting with the UN Communications Planning Team.