

22 jailed at Barisal for murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A court here sentenced 22 persons including two in absentia to life imprisonment yesterday.

According to the prosecution, the convicts murdered one Jasim and gouged out the eyes of three Selim Reza, Delwar Hossain and Dulal in Lamchari village under Sadar thana of the district on the evening of August 8, 1996, following an enmity.

Each of the convicts was jailed for 32 years. They were also fined Tk 12 thousand and in default to suffer five more years rigorous imprisonment each.

After examining records and 20 witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge Md. Jahangir Mollah handed down the punishment acquitting seven people of the charge.

Beauty Begum, Jasim's relative, filed a case with the Kotwali thana accusing 29 people.

Businessman shot

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the area when muggers waylaid his auto-rickshaw.

The muggers dragged Amran out of the vehicle, opened fire on him and took away Tk 40,000 from his possession.

Amran was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Later, a large contingent of police was sent to the spot to carry out raids to arrest the gang of muggers.

In another incident at Halishahar area at around 12 noon yesterday, a group of terrorists lobbed cocktails at a team of patrol police when the team challenged them.

As police gave chase, the terrorists fled leaving behind the auto-rickshaw at the spot. None in the patrol team was however hurt.

UNFPA staff

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informed that many of his colleagues were also suffering from the stomach cramps.

"Don't worry. You are the 10th person to report sickness so far," the official was told.

ERD officials said they were not sure actually how many of them fell sick as many field level officials from outside Dhaka left here after eating the food.

"Some of our colleagues could not turn up in office today while some have reported for duty despite their sickness," one ERD official said.

UNFPA sources said, they ordered 120 snack packets containing a club sandwich, a piece of fried chicken and a vegetable roll for the function when the ERD and UNFPA signed an agreement under which Bangladesh would receive 808,767 dollars for the Adolescent Health Programme.

Nikunja Bihari murder

FROM PAGE 1
Nikunja Bihari Devnath, 55, Joint-Secretary to the Ministry of the Local Government and Rural Development, was knifed to death by muggers near the Swadhinata Sangram Sculpture on the Dhaka University campus at about 7:15 am on January 11, 2000 while he was returning to his Azimpur residence from the Kamalapur Railway Station.

His son Nirupam Devnath filed a murder case with the Ramna police station the same day.

The investigation officers of the case submitted a charge sheet before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM's) Court, Dhaka on February 22 last year, accusing eight people of the killing.

Charges were framed against the accused on July 9 the same year.

Shukur Ali and rickshawpuller Abdul Matin, the only eyewitness, gave judicial statements at the CMM's court, Dhaka during the

4 PBCP activists arrested in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Four members of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party were arrested from village Chandrabash under Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga district after an hour's gun-battle with police at around 5pm yesterday.

Damurhuda thana police said SP of Chuadanga acting on a tip-off raided village Chandrabash with a heavy contingent of police when Sabuj, 28, the group leader, was holding a meeting with Taposh, 28, Hayat Ali, 27, and Asadul, 26.

As the four realised that police surrounded them from all sides, they opened fire on the police in a desperate bid to escape but were arrested after an exchange of fire for an hour.

Taposh was injured during the fight. Police seized a Chinese gun and 100 rounds of ammunition.

Sabuj and his men have been wanted in 30 cases of murder, robbery, rape, kidnap, looting arms, etc. The home ministry had earlier declared a one-lakh-taka reward for arresting Sabuj.

Ctg port

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The demands include introduction of incentive bonus, exempting the port from corporate tax and rescinding the provision of corporate tax in the proposed 2001-2002 budget and a special reserve of 20 per cent of foreign currency earned by the port for its own revenue.

The state minister held a close-door meeting with the port authority and discussed various issues, including corporate tax and filling up of the vacant posts and setting up of a container terminal.

The meeting decided to import 145 pieces of equipment for the port, including gantry cranes.

Port Chairman Commodore Golam Rabbani and other high officials were present.

Ctg port workers invited for talks

Flag meeting

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The BSF team included Commandant Risal Singh, Commandant Jagmohan Singh, Commandant D S Shidhu, Commandant P Ekka and Commandant MPS Khorana.

The officials of BDR and BSF also agreed to hold discussion on easing tension in the bordering areas, resisting smuggling, trafficking of women and identifying border pillars.

The two sides expressed the hope that tension in the border areas of Rangpur and Dinajpur would be reduced to a large extent. They also hoped that normalcy would be restored in the areas.

'Save the Karnaphuli' movement to be launched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Clg

of the port city.

Concerned over the increasing pollution of river Karnaphuli, environmentally conscious people of Chittagong are going to launch a movement to protect the river.

Forum for Planned Chittagong a platform for scientists, social leaders, architects, engineers and journalists has taken the initiative under the banner 'Save the Karnaphuli'.

The movement aims at saving the Karnaphuli, a river that has contributed a lot to the development

of the port city.

Exchanging views with the newsmen at a meeting in the city yesterday, the Forum leaders expressed grave concern over the increasing pollution of the river.

Dumping of garbage and chemical wastes in the river and unplanned and illegal construction of installations on both sides of the river are obstructing the natural flow of the river, they said.

The leaders called upon all to come forward to create public awareness about the issue.

The Forum will organise a rally at

BCL leader shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

with Dhammandi police station.

Principal of Dhaka College ATM Sharifullah filed one, and Ripon the other accusing six persons, including two college leaders of JCD, of the attack.

Witnesses said a group of youths suddenly turned up in front of the college at about 10:30 am and shot Sheik Ripon, the organising secretary of Dhaka College unit of BCL, who was in a rickshaw at that time. Two bullets hit his abdomen.

Ripon is a second year student of the Department of Botany and resident of room-12 in International Hostel at Dhaka College. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was operated on.

Sources said the incident was a sequel to the long-continued rivalry between two factions of BCL. When contacted, Dhaka College unit BCL President SR Palash, however, blamed the attack on Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP.

Separate cases were filed with concerned police stations.

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became furious and tried to break the police bastion.

However, they failed as there was tight security at and around the court premises. Hundreds of policemen cordoned off the entire court house where more than 500 people had come to hear the verdict.

Within half an hour of the pronouncement of judgement in the crowded room, the accused were led to a police van to be taken to the Dhaka Central Jail. Police struggled to take them to the van that was about hundred yards from the courtroom.

The accused shouted at the judge and also swore outside the court premises.

The families of the convicts broke in tears. Some of them threw themselves on the floor trying to prevent the police from taking the convicts to the van.

They rejected the verdict and some of them also tried to unleash violence.

Police also prevented the public from reaching the convicts.

But why did the Awami League government not take action against them?" he asked.

Faruk Khan of the ruling Awami League said there was no need to conduct any inquiry against them. "They didn't disown or contradict the statements published in the press even after eight months. It is clear now that they have violated the oath they had taken for the state."

He, however, suggested action against them, which the meeting unanimously agreed.

M Kader told the meeting that the six officials had violated the rule, and the government should act against them. He said the delay in taking action against them is a failure on the part of the government.

BNP lawmaker Rezaul Karim said they (the six officials) made a mistake by giving the interviews.

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M Kader also told the meeting that General Mustafizur Rahman, currently on LPR, has been availing himself of army facilities while pursuing politics in Rangpur, which is unlawful. A ruling party lawmaker, in reply, said many army officials had done so while they were in service in the past.

Committee members Chief Whip Abu Hasnat Abdullah, Col. (retd.) Shawkat Ali and Faruk Khan of the ruling party, Prof. Rezaul Karim of opposition BNP and Golam Mohammad Kader of Jatiya Party participated in the debate. The meeting was presided over by committee chairman Lt. Gen. (retd.) M Shafiqullah.

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