

AL Presidium for passage of law for PM's special security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law for special security of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after she leaves office on July 13 should be passed in the forthcoming parliamentary session beginning tomorrow.

This was resolved at a meeting of the Awami League Presidium held at the official residence of the prime minister, Ganobhavan, last night. Sheikh Hasina, also president of AL, presided over the meeting.

A member of the presidium told the Daily Star last night that after last Sunday's heinous bomb attack on a church in the prime minister's home district, Gopalganj, the meeting resolved that the government should immediately prepare the draft of the planned law to be passed in the 23rd session.

The 7th Jatiya Sangsad goes into session tomorrow, which is the last one of the current parliament.

"The new law would guarantee the security of the immediate past

prime minister," said an AL Presidium member without giving details.

The meeting noted that those now vehemently opposing the enactment of the law were themselves the potential threats to the life of Sheikh Hasina.

Besides, the last night's meeting discussed extensively the prime minister's address to the nation on June 12, marking the fifth anniversary of the free and fair elections of 1996, and also a party rally in the city on June 23, marking the anniversary of the government formation by Sheikh Hasina in 1996.

The meeting decided to hold a meeting of the AL National Committee in Dhaka soon with the participation of the party leaders at grassroots level.

AL Presidium meeting also expressed deep shock at the carnage in Nepal, killings at a Christian church in Gopalganj and death of many civilians and army personnel in two separate accidents recently in Sandwip and Chittagong.

Monsoon rain may cause flash floods

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The capital experienced monsoon rains yesterday as its 'advance elements' arrived in central region of the country.

Meteorologists say the monsoon is likely to be all over Bangladesh by June 10 and will be normal.

"It will be normal this season although in June intensity of the monsoon rains will be higher than the average because its advance elements always contain a little extra power. As a result, there could be flash floods this month in the north, northeast and south-eastern Bangladesh," Director of Meteorology Department Anwarul Kabir said yesterday.

He however said the monsoon is expected to be normal although it is coming in the wake of 'abnormalities in weather pattern' this year, marked by a dry spell

and sudden rains late last month.

A long-range forecast by the Met Office after a meeting of experts on Sunday said there would be more than normal rains and 'one or two seasonal lows' in the Bay this month.

Rains totalling 281 mm in Rangpur on Sunday -- 244 mm of which in six hours -- more than the monthly average, led to swelling of the rivers in northwestern region. But those were still flowing below their respective red marks.

The rains yesterday and the day before caused a rising trend in all the major rivers in the country but they remained below their respective danger levels. Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said.

The Met Office recorded rains all over the country and heavy showers in the northwestern region during 24 hours till 6 pm yesterday.

It forecast possibility of heavy rains in some areas in Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and moderate to heavy showers in Rajshahi Division today. Besides rain/thunder showers accompanied by temporary/gusty/squally winds are likely in most areas of the country today, the forecast said.

The FFWC yesterday warned that due to continuous rainfall in the Brahmaputra, Ganges and Meghna basins, the low lying areas in the north-east, northwest and north central parts of the country may be inundated, which may cause damage to crops.

Local drainage system is to be kept open and cross bars on drainage system are to be removed for quick drainage of the areas that are affected by accumulation of water. Drainage structures at the out fall are to be operated carefully, FFWC said.

New air chief calls on President

BSS, Dhaka

The newly appointed Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal M Rafiqul Islam called on President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed welcomed him in his new assignment and wished him success.

Prokrichi-BCS Council rally tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Prokrichi-BCS Central Coordination Council will hold a rally followed by a procession in the city tomorrow to press its eight-point demand for removal of 'disparity' between different cadre services.

The rally will be held at the premises of the Institution of Engineers at 11 am tomorrow.

It will highlight the eight-point demand of the engineers, doctors and agriculturists and 26 other cadre services, says a press release of the organisation yesterday.

In a statement Dr M A K Azad and Choudhury Khalequzzaman, President and Secretary General of the council urged the authorities concerned to implement their demands which among others contain providing selection grade at grade five of 50 per cent posts of sixth grade employees who belong to non-administrative cadre.

City AL meets tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

An extended emergency meeting of Dhaka City Awami League will be held at the party's central office at 23 Bangabandhu Avenue at 6:30 pm tomorrow.

Party General Secretary and State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya (Bir Bikram) has requested all party MPs, ward commissioners and presidents and secretaries of thana, ward, union chapters and front organisations to attend the meeting on time.

Death anniversary



The first death anniversary of Begum Lutfunnessa Ibrahim, wife of late Justice Mohammed Ibrahim, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani and feeding of the destitute will be held.

DHAKA TODAY

Environment Fair
Department of Environment will hold a walkathon and hold a day-long environment fair to mark World Environment Day 2001. Venue: Walkathon: From Shishu Academy premises, Fair: Osmani Memorial Hall. Time: 8:00 am & 9:00 am.

German Film Festival
Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen two German films The boat by Wolfgang Petersen and The Tin Drum by Volker Schlöndorff. Venue: Goethe Institut House No-10, Rd No-9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 3:30 pm and 7:00 pm.

Inauguration
Shom Computers Ltd will be launched. Chief guest: Industries Minister Tofiq Ahmed. Venue: VIP lounge of National Press Club. Time: 3:30 pm.

Memorial meeting
Mahbubul Haq Smriti Sangsad will hold a memorial meeting to mark the 27th death anniversary of journalist Mahbubul Haq. Venue: Auditorium of National Press Club. Time: 4:00 pm.

IPC-BIDS programme
The National Press Club has taken up a 2-day long programme a association with the Sustainable Development Networking Programme of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies to mark World Environment Day. Venue: NPC premises.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Human chain
Syhet Bibhag Unnayan Parishad will form a human chain to protest rail accidents. Venue: Kamalapur Railyation. Time: 12:00 pm-2:00 pm.

Ershad rules out return to 4-party

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad ruled out his return to the four-party opposition alliance as he hopes JP singly would get in the coming election more than double the seats his party got in 1991 and 1996 polls.

On return from a month's tour abroad, the former president said his JP got 35 seats both in 1991 and 1996 general elections although he was in jail, but "this time I am free and wish to get more than double the seats in parliament."

Ershad, who was freed from jail on April 9, left Dhaka on May 4 for treatment in Saudi Arabia and visiting UAE and London, he returned home yesterday afternoon.

Talking to journalists at the airport briefly, he said he would try to form an electoral coalition, after discussion with the "like-minded" parties but there is also possibility of fighting the election alone as in the previous polls.

Commenting on the coming election, he said this time it would be a triangular fight, indicating direct fight among Awami League, BNP and his Jatiya Party.

Asked whether he would support a proposed bill to be placed in the budget session on special security for Sheikh Hasina and her sister, the deposed president, whose JP will join the parliament session, said, on question of life security, his party would support the bill.

But, if the bill is found contradictory to the Constitution, then they would not support it. Ershad, however, said opposition leaders should also be provided with security.

The JP chairman dismissed as "baseless" a rumour that he went abroad to collect election funds. "I have heard for the first time that fund needs to be created from abroad for election expenses.

About another rumour that he went out to bring money from his foreign accounts, the former president throwing open challenge said if it could be proved that he has a single dollar in any overseas account he would quit politics.

"Foreign agency Fair Fax was given responsibility to find out my foreign accounts, but they did not find anything," Ershad told the reporters. "I'm fond, going abroad is not necessary... people's love is my biggest fund."

About the possibility of merger between Mizan-Manju faction of JP and his party, Ershad replied in the positive.

CUTA protests terrorism

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) formed a human chain on the university campus yesterday to protest the growing terrorism in the port city.

They also demanded of the government to take steps to curb terrorism.

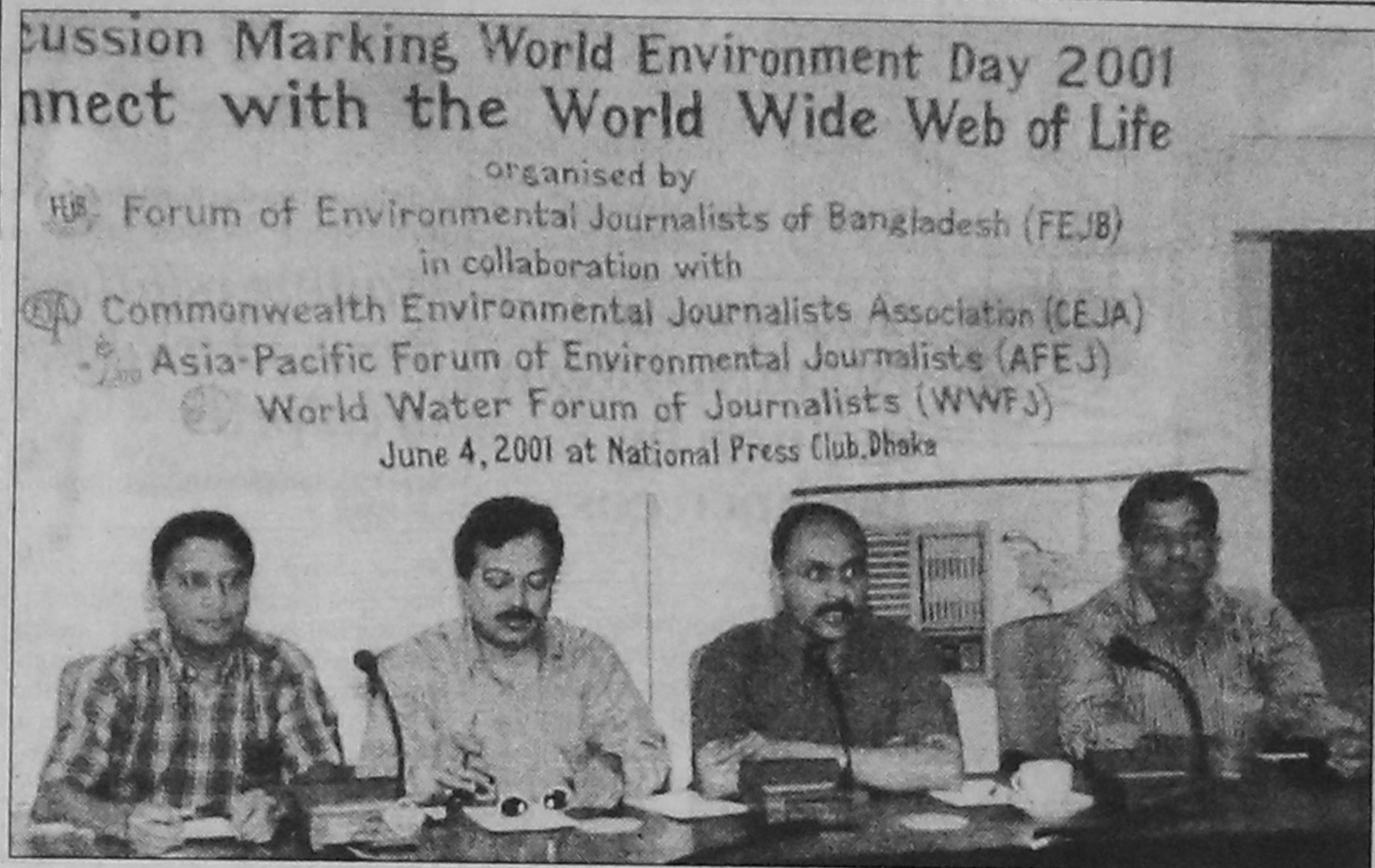
The protest programme has been taken up in line with the anti-terrorism movement launched by the newsmen and employees of the newspaper offices in Chittagong under the banner of 'Sangbadpatrasebi Oikya Parishad, Chittagong.'

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Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) organised a discussion meeting at the National Press Club yesterday to mark the World Environment Day.

Political parties urged to incorporate environmental issues in election manifesto

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called upon all major political parties to incorporate environmental issues in their election manifestos to protect the environment.

They expressed deep concern over the deterioration of environment, growing air pollution, expanding arsenic contamination, deforestation, rapid encroachment of rivers and water bodies, degradation of soil and growing threat of climate change and sea-level rises.

The discussion on "Connect World Wide Web of Life" was held at the National Press Club.

Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) in collaboration with Common-

wealth Environmental Journalists Association (CEJA), World Water Forum of Journalists (WWF) and Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (AFEJ) organised the event to mark the World Environment Day.

Presided over by chairman of CEJA and FEJB Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, it was addressed by Dr Mahfuzul Haque, Dr Abdus Sattar Syed, Mofizur Rahman, Badiul Alam, Sharif Shahabuddin, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Nurul Huda, Syeda Salma Zafrin, Shaheen Reza Noor, Elahi Newaz Khan and Rosy Ferdous.

The speakers emphasized the need for improving the environmental governance in the country, and called for raising the major environmental issues in international fora to seek a way out.

Cabinet condoles deaths of Nepal's royal family members

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet has condoled the deaths of the members of royal family of Nepal, including King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya, as well as loss of life in several incidents at home.

In its weekly meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, the council of ministers expressed deep shock at the tragic assassination of King Birendra Bir Bikram Shahdev along with the members of his family.

The ministers prayed for eternal peace of the departed souls of the royal family members and conveyed heartfelt sympathies to the grief-stricken people of Nepal.

To pay respect to the monarch, one of the founder-leaders of SAARC, national mourning day was observed in Bangladesh yesterday.

The cabinet also expressed profound shock at the bombing of Catholic Church at Banichar in Gopalganj district, catastrophic capsizing of a passenger-trawler in the Sandwip channel of the Bay of Bengal and at the death of army personnel and their relatives in a road accident at Hathazari in Chittagong.

In the meeting the cabinet also approved a proposed new Jute Policy for 2001-2005 in keeping with the present state of the sector.

Also, it endorsed proposed amendments to the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act 1973 and Civil Courts Act 1887 for updating the laws.

Cabinet members and state ministers in charge of different ministries attended the meeting. Cabinet secretary, principal secretary to the Prime Minister and other secretaries concerned were present.

Body of young man found in Kaliganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Badda police recovered the body of a young man from the river Balu on the west of Pakira village yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Nazrul Khan, 30, son of Ibrahim Khan of Barabari, Kaliganj in Gazipur.

Badda police said that they have informed Kaliganj police about the murder took place. There were marks of stab injuries on the man's chest and abdomen. He was probably thrown in to the river, after being stabbed, police said.

World Environment Day 2001

SDNP-BANGLADESH
A Project of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

A two day special programme has been taken jointly by the Sustainable Development Networking Programme of BIDS and the National Press Club to observe the World Environment Day 2001 from June 6 to June 7, 2001. On this occasion discussions and demonstrations on usage of Internet will be held at the press club premises. A cyber café will be set up at the press club, which will remain open to all and also, a multimedia CD will be released to observe the WED2001. The programme will be inaugurated at 11:00 am by Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, ex-Advisor to the Interim Government of Bangladesh.

The Cyber café will remain open to general public from 12:00-05:00 pm on June 6, 2001 and on June 7, 2001. Copies of CD will be on sale at the café.

You are also cordially invited to visit our web site at the following URL:

G0-559 <http://www.sdnpbd.org>

Notice

In the Sub-Judge and Artha Rin Adalat no-3, Dhaka.
Title Suit No. 54/2000
Pubali Bank Ltd. Sonargaon Road Branch, P.S. Ramna, District-Dhaka.Plaintiff

-VERSUS-

(1) Mr. H.M. Golam Reza, S/o- Md. Shukur Ali, Proprietor-B, And R. Enterprise, (2) Mr. Md. Shamim, S/o-Mr. Abdul Hakim, (3) Mrs. Jinnatun Nahar (Shimu), W/o-Mr. H.M. Golam Reza, (4) Sharmin Farjana (Bubli), D/o-H.M. Golam Reza. Being Minor Represented by her father, all of 230, Senpara Parbota, Begum Rokeya Sarani-C/A. P.S. Mirpur, District-Dhaka.Defendants

By this Notice the above named Defendants are notified that the plaintiff Bank has filed the above suit for realisation of TK. 35,76,370/90 as on 30.6.2000 against you. Therefore, you are directed to appear in the court in person or through Advocate on 21-6-2001 and to reply if any. Otherwise the above suit will be heard exparte.

Given under my signature and seal of this court on this the 15 th day of March, 2001.

By Order of the Court
Sherstadar
Sub-Judge Artha Rin Adalat No.-3, Dhaka.

33rd PW cross-examined in Rubel Murder Case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The 33rd prosecution witness, in the Shamim Reza Rubel Murder Case, was cross-examined yesterday in the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka.

Judge Mollah Mostafa Kamal adjourned the hearing till June 18. During the cross-examination, former metropolitan magistrate Mohammad Abul Kashem said that he recorded a judicial statement of constable Mir Farook, one of the 14 accused in the case on August in 1998.

The witness also told the court that he did not find any injury marks on the Farook's body. Moreover, the accused did not report about the torture by the investigation officer to him (witness).

Kashem also said Farook gave the statement without involving himself in the incident but blamed other accused for the killing.

Shamim Reza Rubel, 24, a BBA student of the Independent University was picked up by the DB police from in front of his Siddharswari residence under Ramna thana on July 23 in 1998 and was tortured to death in the custody the same day.

All the accused including AC Akram Hussain and Mukuli Begum, a local Awami League leader, were produced before the court during the hearing.

Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam appeared for the state while Advocate Mahbub Ahmed, ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul and Shamim Reza were for the accused.

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