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## Bangabandhu murder

# Case stalled till Appellate Divn restructured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangabandhu Murder Case will not be included in the cause-list of the Supreme Court till the Appellate Division is restructured.

Chief Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury gave the order yesterday after Attorney General Hasan Arif submitted to the court that he had no instruction regarding appointment of a judge on ad-hoc basis for hearing of the leave petition.

Hearing on the leave to appeal was scheduled to be held yesterday. The government had decided on January 17 to restructure the Appellate Division by increasing the number of judges to seven from the existing five. But no additional appointment has yet been made.

The Chief Justice in his order also said the stay on operation of the High Court judgement in the case would remain till disposal of the leave petition.

"By not appointing an ad-hoc judge as recommended by the chief justice in October, the government successfully put the Bangabandhu Murder Case in the cold-storage," said Special Public Prosecutor in the case Advocate Anisul Haq after the order of the chief justice.

Awami League (AL) leaders have been saying for months that the government has been deliberately delaying the hearing by not appointing a judge on ad-hoc basis for hearing the case.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed however contradicted the view saying, "The government is very sincere about the case and it would be completed." He however blamed bureaucratic bottlenecks for the delay in restructuring the Appellate Division.

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PHOTO: STAR

Relatives of Amir Abdullah alias Shakil, one of the two persons gunned down at Zinjira in Keraniganj, grieve his death at DMCH morgue yesterday.

# Double murder at Zinjira

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Masked miscreants shot dead two persons, one of whom was a Jubo Dal leader, at Zinjira under Keraniganj thana yesterday following a row over possession of a cattle market.

Amir Abdullah alias Shakil, 26, secretary of the Zinjira Market Association and sports secretary of the Zinjira Union Jubo Dal, succumbed to his injuries at about 2.00pm on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and Sentu, 30, a lessee of a cattle market at Zinjira Bazaar, died on the spot.

A gang of gunners ambushed Amir of Gulzarbagh and Sentu of Nazarganj village in front of the Krishi Bank when they were coming to the capital on a motorbike at about 1.00pm, witnesses said.

Police recovered the body of Sentu three hours after the incident and sent it to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

The double murder led businessmen to call an indefinite strike at Zinjira and to deployment of additional police forces to keep the situation under control.

Police could not say anything about the motive for the killing. However, the duty officer of Keraniganj Police Station, when contacted, said, "Amir was an accused in the Rakibullah Bablu and Labu murder cases and this may be the reason."

Another source said that there had been a feud between victims and some other people over control of the cattle market at Zinjira Bazaar. "The miscreants killed them to take control of the market," said the source.

No case was filed with Keraniganj Police Station in connection with the killing till filing of this report at about 9.00pm.

## BDR 'excess' during Friday's raid alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the paramilitary BDR swooped on different parts of the city as well as the Dhaka University campus in a bid to arrest terrorists and recover illegal arms, people have expressed strong resentment about the 'unprecedented BDR excess' during the operations.

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans broke into houses at the dead of night, fired gunshots, randomly picked up innocent people and detained and tortured them in custody, many alleged.

The DU students were particularly targeted by the heavily armed BDR paramilitaries who stormed five residential halls of the university in the early hours of Friday and arrested a total of 85 people including two campus reporters during the three-hour long swoop.

A number of DU students picked up from different halls alleged that they were gagged and confined at the BDR headquarters in Pilkhana for as long as 18 hours before being sent to Ramna thana yesterday.

"I pleaded repeatedly with the BDR men not to blindfold or hurt me," said Farid Ahmed, UNB's Dhaka University Correspondent while speaking to journalists on the

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# Dhaka to send back 'faulty' ROK frigate

AFP, Dhaka

Bangladesh is to return a 100 million dollar state-of-the-art frigate to shipbuilders in South Korea after faulty machinery rendered the vessel "unfit" for operations, the defence ministry said yesterday.

The frigate, christened "BNS Bangabandhu" last year by former premier Sheikh Hasina Wajed, had been completed six weeks ahead of schedule by South Korea's Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering Company.

But, according to a defence ministry statement, the 2,300 tonne ship was riddled with faults.

"Many faults were detected in the machinery and equipment systems and problems were seen in the combat systems," the statement said.

"Its operation became risky ... due to problems related to sonar system design. Due to these reasons decommissioning became a must as it had become unfit for operational activities."

The 103.5 metre long frigate is armed with four OTOMAT MK-II cannons, one 76mm OTO BREDA super rapid gun, two triple torpedo launchers and surveillance radar and sonar.

It can move at speeds of up to 25.3 knots an hour and has a helicopter landing pad.

However, following discovery of the technical faults, the vessel was never fitted with combat equipment.

According to the defence ministry, the ship was due to set sail for South Korea following an official decommissioning ceremony Thursday in which its name plaque was pulled down in accordance with naval tradition.

"Bangabandhu" -- the popular name of Bangladesh's founder and Sheikh Hasina's father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- will now be known as "DW2000H", the ministry said.

## Bush praises Dhaka for backing anti-terrorism coalition

BSS, Washington

The US President George W Bush has appreciated Bangladesh's condemnation of terrorism and support for the counter-terrorism coalition, and also applauded the country's interest in playing a constructive role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

He expressed this sentiment after warmly receiving the newly appointed Bangladesh Ambassador

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## Ershad repents quitting four-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad returned home yesterday after four months' stay abroad.

Talking to journalists at Zia International Airport, Ershad said his party had a 'disastrous result' in the last general election because it left the four-party alliance. "It was a wrong decision."

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