

Shazneen case Bail petition of prime accused Shahid rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Second Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, yesterday rejected the bail petition of Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, the prime accused in Shazneen Rape Case.

Judge Kazi Rahamat Ullah passed the order upon a bail petition by the defence lawyer.

In its order the court stated that the charges brought against Shahid were proved and he gave confessional statements before the court. So, the petition for bail is rejected.

Meanwhile, additional SP of CID

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Three gunned down in city

Son beaten by father dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people were killed in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Shamsul Haq Tipu, a contractor and former vice-president of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Mirpur thana unit, was gunned down inside a fast food shop at Hatirpool in the city yesterday.

Tipu died instantly as unidentified gunmen sprayed bullets on him.

Police said the killers ambushed him inside the fast food shop while

he was having cold drinks.

Tipu and his friend Khaleque went to the food shop after receiving a call on the cell phone. But soon, they sensed that something was wrong as they saw some local rival youths loitering around. The assailants, five in number, stepped inside the shop and opened fire on Tipu.

"The victim's friend, Khaleq, mysteriously escaped unhurt" a guard of the shop said.

The killers then drove away in a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Bush greets Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

US President George W Bush has felicitated Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on the occasion of country's Independence and National Day.

"On behalf of the American people, I extend best wishes for Bangladesh's continued growth towards prosperity as you celebrate the anniversary of your independence on March 26," Bush said in a message of felicitations.

He appreciated Bangladesh's continued support as a member of the counter terrorism coalition.

"As a democracy in an important region of the world, Bangladesh will continue to contribute to regional stability and cooperation," said the American President in his message.

14 personalities, two instts get Independence Award

UNB, Dhaka

Fourteen personalities and two institutions have been given Independence Award for the years 2001 and 2002 for their outstanding contributions in Independence and Liberation War, literature, journalism, music, social welfare and sports.

Ten personalities and one institution were awarded for 2001 while four personalities and one organisation for 2002. Each award contains a gold medal, a citation and a cheque for Tk 50,000.

Independence Award winners for 2002: SA Bari AT (posthumous)

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

PM calls for unity to attain goal of independence

Opposition again urged to join JS

UNB, Dhaka

Reiterating her call to opposition Awami League to join parliament, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged all to unitedly build up a self-reliant Bangladesh to fulfil aspirations of the martyrs of Independence War.

"As I said earlier, we believe in unity, not in division. We may have political differences, but each and every patriotic citizen must remain alert so that the differences by no means can hinder our national interest," she told an award distribution function.

Addressing the function for the distribution of Independence Awards for 2001 and 2002 at Osmany Memorial auditorium, Khaleda said the national interest must be kept above all political controversy.

"We've to be future-oriented to attain the goal of independence. Marching forward in bold steps towards the future embracing the present will be our task," she said.

Ten personalities and one institution were given Independence Awards, 2001 for their outstanding role in the Liberation War and in literature, journalism and sports while four personalities and one institution were given Independence Awards, 2002.

The Prime Minister lamented that fruits of independence could not yet be reached to the doors of the people. "We've achieved independence. But, we know, independence becomes meaningless without economic emancipation of the people."

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia honouring a recipient of Independence Award with a gold medal at Osmany Memorial Auditorium yesterday.

Kidnapped schoolboy rescued: 12 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammadpur police rescued a kidnapped schoolboy from the city's Kalyanpur area and arrested 12 members of a notorious crime cartel on Saturday evening.

The student, 12, of class-VI of Siddiqui's International School at Dhanmondi, was abducted at around 4.45pm Saturday, while he was riding a bike in front of his house at West Agargaon. (The boy's name and the identity of his parents have been withheld for security reasons.)

Minutes later, the abductors called the boy's parents on a cell phone and said that the child's chopped-off head would be sent to them unless they paid them Tk 10 lakh.

The abductors had fixed a place for handing over of the ransom by

sunset and asked the boy's parents to send a man in a red shirt with the money in a briefcase and wait in the playground at Shyamoli Ring Road behind the Shyamoli cinema hall.

Officer-in-Charge of Mohammadpur Police Station Nur Ahmed, who led the rescue operation, said he dispatched about ten undercover agents to the spot, being informed about the incident at around 6.30pm.

"One agent wore a red shirt and carried a briefcase. About a dozen undercover policemen were also posted around the field," Nur Ahmed said.

About an hour later, two men approached the undercover policeman in red shirt and demanded the ransom. Within seconds, the police

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Alamgir's bail prayer rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court, Dhaka yesterday rejected petitions seeking bail for Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and legal action against the investigation officer (IO) of the case against him.

The court also directed the jail authorities to give him necessary things while in jail custody.

Alamgir, an Awami League leader and former state minister for planning, was arrested at Zia International Airport on March 15 on charge of instigating government officials and employees to join the anti-government movement led

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Award distribution Invited AL MPs barred from entering Osmany Auditorium

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League MPs, invited to attend the Independence Award distribution ceremony yesterday, were not allowed to enter the Osmany auditorium, allegedly by the security people.

Awami League Parliamentary Party secretary and President member Abdul Jalil MP said the government invited their party MPs to attend the function, but he and others were not allowed to go in.

"Even after producing the invitation cards, our party MPs were not allowed to get inside the hall," he said.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia distributed the Independence Awards at the Osmany Memorial auditorium.

Hunger strike: Moudud defends police action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Minister for law, justice and parliamentary affairs Barrister Moudud Ahmed yesterday defended the police intervention to foil the hunger strike programme by the main opposition party Awami League on the grounds that the AL programme coincided with a government programme at the same venue at the Osmany Udyan area.

Talking to the BBC, the minister said the police intercepted the opposition to keep them away from the Osmany Udyan as a government programme for distribution of Independence Day Awards was held at the Osmany Auditorium yesterday.

The opposition called the hunger

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Suvastu's letter on our rejoinder

Suvastu has protested the reply on a rejoinder published in The Daily Star on March 19. The protest letter pointed out the following:

"The Daily Star said the tower should have 46 parking spaces for 92,000 square-feet. In fact, the tower should have 43 car parking space and Suvastu already has 39 spaces.

"The entrance to its parking lot is not through a hardly ten feet wide road. It is 14 feet four inches wide on an average. RAJUK rule stipulates that the entrance road should be 3.65 meters (11.97feet) wide.

"As per Clause 20 (1) of RAJUK rule for construction of buildings, 1996, commercial buildings do not require maintaining a distance of four feet between the buildings

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8