

DB's prayer for remand of Sayeed Khokon rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT
 The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, on Saturday rejected the DB's prayer for remand of Sayeed Khokon and ordered sending him to Dhaka Central Jail.

Khokon, Awami League leader and son of former mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif, is accused in a case concerning a fire incident at the telephone exchange at Chawkbazar in the city.

The Investigation Officer (IO) of the case submitted a petition on July 1 seeking seven-day remand for interrogation of Khokon.

Magistrate Kazi Meraj Hossain fixed yesterday for hearing on the remand prayer.

Khokon was produced before the court at 11:30 am under tight security.

The defence lawyers -- Sahara Khatun, Quamrul Islam and Abdullah Abu -- submitted a petition seeking cancellation of the remand prayer.

Moving the petition, the lawyers stated that Khokon was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him politically. Khokon's name was not men-

tioned in the FIR (First Information Report). Moreover, some other accused, in their confessional statements, did not mention that Khokon was involved in the incident. So, the remand prayer should be cancelled, the lawyers added.

The prosecution side opposed the petition.

Khokon, who was AL nominee from Dhaka-7 constituency in the last parliamentary election was arrested by the DB police from his Banani residence on June 29.

He was arrested under Section 54 of the CrPc on charge of making provocative statements against the government at the AL's public meetings.

Khokon was then sent to the Dhaka Central Jail on a 30-day detention following rejection of his bail prayer on June 30.

Meanwhile, the High Court on July 6 issued a rule asking the government to show cause within two weeks why the detention of Khokon should not be declared illegal.

The High Court passed the order following a writ petition challenging the legality of his detention.



Four associations in the apparel sector -- BGMEA, BKMEA, BTTLMEA and BSTMPIA -- jointly staged a hunger strike in front of the BGMEA office at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday to press their 7-point demand.

BSF kills 89 Bangladeshis in 12 months

BSS, Juyprhat
 The Border Security Forces (BSF) of India killed 89 Bangladeshis and seriously injured 40 others during the last 12 months without any provocation.

"During the period from July last year to June this year we never opened fire on any Indian civilians even after provocation from our counterpart. But the BSF shot dead 89 Bangladeshis while they were responding to their natural calls, tilling land, harvesting crops, tending heads of cattle or fishing near the bordering areas," top BDR officials told BSS on Saturday.

According to statistics available from the BDR headquarters, the BSF killed 13 Bangladeshis nationals in July, three in August, 12 in September, nine in October, five in November and seven in December in 2001. In the current year, the BSF shot dead three Bangladeshis in January, 11 in February, five in March, four in April, three in May and the highest 14 in June.

After killing the Bangladeshis, the BSF men took the bodies and kept the injured persons illegally inside India. Every time BDR had to sit in a couple of flag meetings to get back the bodies and injured persons from the Indian side, they said, adding that the relatives of the victims had to suffer unbearable pains when they saw the bodies of their relatives in 'mutilated' forms.

Replying to a question, a high-ranking official at the BDR headquarters informed that in the last Director General (DG) level meeting in Dhaka in April, the BDR requested the DG of BSF not to open fire on the innocent Bangladeshis any more and instruct the BSF troops posted along the border in this regard.

"The DG of BSF has assured us of doing so but the things are yet to move on the right direction as our innocent people are being killed frequently by the BSF till now," the officials said.

"We have always requested our counterpart not to open fire on innocent and unarmed citizens of Bangladesh but to arrest them if there is any violation of demarcation line. We also signed unanimous agreements on the issue but it is a matter of serious concern that the BSF side is killing our innocent people even after the agreements," the BDR officials added.

The BDR Jawans never open fire on Indian nationals who even enter into Bangladesh territory mistakenly or violently. They are generally arrested as per the agreements of the flag meetings and agreed norms of the Indo-Bangla Joint Border Guidelines of 1975.

The next DG level meeting will be held in New Delhi in October or November this year to discuss the repeated violation of agreements and norms of 1975 guidelines, he informed.

The official said, a total of six Sector Commander level and 38 Battalion commander level flag meetings between the BDR and the BSF were held during the first six months up to June 30 this year.

Some senior and Battalion level BDR officials said they always try their best to make their counterpart understand about the human rights of the innocent people and the fate of the victims' families.

EU information session on higher edn programme held

BSS, Dhaka
 A delegation of the European Commission (EC) to Bangladesh held an information session on its new higher education programme "Asia Link" in the city yesterday.

Representatives from universities across the country attended the session, an EC press release said.

The dissolution of national boundaries and the integration of markets as part of the globalisation process have led to this need for an increasing internationalisation of higher education institutions relevant to each country, necessary for technological research and development and the ability to participate in the knowledge society, the release said.

Asia Link will build up links in areas supporting economic development such as economics, management, engineering, health, tourism and sustainable development.

Developing the link between higher education and the job market will be a prime objective. Projects will aim to assist universities in providing courses that will give young people the opportunity to get employment in areas crucial for economic development whilst also contributing to greater understanding between young people in the EU and Asia, the release added.

The Asia link programme will make an important contribution to enhancing cooperation between higher education institutions by intensifying academic, research and student exchanges between the countries of the European Union and Asia, the release said.

The programme aims to provide a response to the challenges presented by the internationalisation of higher education in Asia and Europe and recognises the higher education sector's increasingly important role in economic and technological development, competitiveness, growth and labour markets.

Road repair work not before winter, says mayor

BSS, Dhaka
 Mayor of Dhaka Sadeq Hossain Khoka yesterday said city dwellers will have to suffer due to dilapidated conditions of roads till next winter as repair or construction of roads cannot start in rainy season.

Khoka told the news agency that the DCC was aware of the sufferings of the city residents but the prevailing monsoon would not allow it to begin the repair of the roads.

Large portions of roads and lanes in the capital city have been damaged during the current rainy season, creating a serious problem for vehicular traffic.

Slow speed and sometimes interrupted movement of vehicles on the damaged roads are causing unbearable traffic jam in the city.

Besides, potholes and mud on the roads in almost every area of the city have been adding misery to the public life for the last few months.

"The DCC has taken all-out preparations for the repair of the damaged roads and lanes. The construction work will begin just after the end of the rainy season," the Mayor said.

He stated that to reduce the troubles of the city-dwellers, the DCC was filling the badly damaged roads with sand and bricks-bats as a temporary measure.

For a permanent solution, the DCC will look for modern technology and ensure better construction of the roads so that they could last long.

DCC Chief Engineer Qamruzzaman Mahmud said poor construction over the last few years resulted in extensive damage to the roads during the rainy season.

Usually a road in Dhaka city should last for five to 10 years, he said. The damage to a huge portion of the city roads this year was the result of utter irregularities in the DCC during the past regime, he added.

"Use of low quality building materials and lack of proper monitoring are responsible for the poor construction of the city roads," he said. The chief engineers joined the DCC recently.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka
 Advocate Ruhul Amin, former Member of the then Pakistan National Assembly and a renowned lawyer of the Bangladesh Supreme Court, died of brain hemorrhage at Sikder Medical College Hospital in the city on Saturday at the age of 79.

A former president of Noakhali District Bar Association, Ruhul Amin is survived by his wife, five sons and one daughter.

His qulhwani will be held at Chatkhil on July 17.

Monowara Begum
BSS, Faridpur
 Monowara Begum, wife of Alhaj Mokbul Hossain of Faridpur town, died of a cardiac arrest at a clinic here on Saturday at the age of 68.

She is survived by her husband, three sons, four daughters, and a number of grandchildren.

Her eldest son Jahangir Hossain was the chief public relations officer of Dhaka City Corporation, and second son Alamgir Hossain is the diplomatic correspondent of the daily Ittefaq.

Her namaz-e-janaja was held at local govt. Yasin College ground and she was buried at Alipur graveyard of the town.

Her qulhwani will be held on Tuesday at her Gopalpur residence after Asr prayers. Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad mahfil.

Bridge tournament
 The monthly Pair Bridge Tournament of the Officers' Club will be held. Venue: Officers' Club, Bailey Road. Time: After Magreb prayers.

Computer course
 A special computer course on Multimedia, organised by the Institute of Computer Communication and Technology (ICCT), will begin. Venue: House-28/1, Road-6, Dhanmondi.

Gas seminar
 A seminar on 'Modern Approaches to Reservoir Evaluation and Management in Oil and Gas Sector', organised jointly by the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh and the USAID, will be held with State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharruf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: IEB seminar room. Time: 5.00pm.

Discussion
 Dhaka City Jamaat-e-Islami organises a meeting with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid as chief guest. Venue: Maruf Foundation auditorium, Purana Pallan. Time: 4.00pm.

Inauguration
 The inaugural ceremony of two projects titled 'Bridging the Digital Divide' and 'Strengthening the Young Change Agents Network', organised jointly by the British Council and the Working for Better Life, will be held. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

IT seminar
 The Computer Science Department of North South University organises seminars on 'Java Execution Techniques: High Performance Alternatives' and 'Recommender Systems in E-Commerce: Opportunities and Challenges'. Venue: University campus. Time: 12.00pm and 12.30pm respectively.

Rotary Mid City
 The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Mid City will be held. It will be followed by a board meeting. Venue: CIDRAP auditorium. Time: 6.30pm.

Training
 A training programme on 'Introduction to Poverty Analysis', organised jointly by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies and World Bank Institute, will begin. Venue: BIDS premises.

Training centre
 The inaugural ceremony of the International Training Centre of Tata Infotech Education will be held. Venue: House-183, Road-12/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm.

Rotary Dhaka North
 The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 4.30pm.

Preparatory meeting
 A meeting of the preparatory committee of Carmichael College Old Students Association will be held. Venue: 133, New Bailey Road. Time: 4.30pm.

Death anniversary
 The second death anniversary of Md Wahiduzzaman, former deputy director of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority and a freedom fighter, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the residence of his son at 52 Eastern Banasree Apartments, Rampura, after Asr prayers.

Rahnuma Afrin
 The first death anniversary of Past Regional Coordinator of ActionAid Bangladesh Rahnuma Afrin Choton will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and doa will be held today after Asr prayers at her father's residence at 7/1A, Block-C, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207.

Friends, colleagues, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the milad.

Mugdapara Samity executives

A 21-member executive committee of the Mugdapara Adarsha Samaj Kalyan Samity has been formed with Md Habbibur Rahman and Nasim-Al Rashid as its president and general secretary respectively, says a press release.

The committee was formed for the year 2002-2004 at the annual general meeting of the Samity recently.

Other office-bearers of the committee are Kazi Jamaluddin Raja - vice president, Dolon Sarkar and Harun-ur-Rashid Mamon - joint secretaries, Md Abdur Rahim - treasurer, Md Shafiuddin - organising secretary, Md Rokunuddin Helal - publicity secretary, Md Mamun-ur-Rashid - sports and cultural secretary, Md Jashimuddin Tulu - office secretary.

And the executive members are Md Taleb Ali, Abdul Malek Talukder, Md Aminul Islam Sarkar Babul, Kazi Jahangir Kabir Babar, Md Anisur Rahman Khan, Abu Mohammad Sadek, Md Abdul Khaleq, Kazi Nur Ahmed Shafiq, Md Nurul Huq, Md Nazrul Karim Sentu, Md Kamrul Islam.

12 arms seized

BSS, Dhaka
 Police recovered 12 firearms and 31 bullets from across the country during the ongoing drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday.

They also arrested 1198 people, including five listed criminals, during the period. Of them, 673 were wanted by police and 512 are accused in different cases under investigation.

Congratulations

Prasun Biswas, a student of Government Laboratory High School, has scored GPA-5 in this year's SSC examinations under Dhaka Board, says a press release.

A keen debator and orator, Prasun was the president of the Debating Club of the Laboratorians (DCL). He wants to pursue higher studies in genetic engineering.

He is the son of P K Biswas and Sharmila Biswas.

Cultural ministry to promote environmental causes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman said yesterday that her ministry would take measures to promote environmental causes upholding the traditional conservation values.

"Our cultural heritage attaches high priority to the conservation of environment. We need to regenerate the conservationism through our cultural activities," she told a delegation of the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) during a meeting at the conference room of the ministry.

"Failing to preserve our environmentally enriched heritage will result in deadly devastation," she added.

Selima Rahman also underscored the need for saving the

rivers and waterbodies, including the Buriganga. The government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is committed to protecting our fragile ecosystem and biodiversity, she added.

Led by FEJB chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, the delegation comprised journalists Anwar Hossain Manju, Mofizur Rahman, Nurul Huda, Shamima Chowdhury, Rezaul Karim Lotus, Latifur Rahman Binu, Bulbul Ahmed, Giasuddin Ahmed, Abdul Hye Siddiqui and Abu Taher Khokon, and Mainul Alam, Syed Abdal Ahmed, Anisur Rahman, Ruhul Amin, Rushid, Shahidul Islam Chowdhury and Rashed Ahmed Mital.

Secretary at the Cultural Affairs Ministry Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury, Director General of the Shilpakala Academy Mostafa Zaman

Abbas and Director of the Bangladesh Folk Art and Craft Foundation Ahmed Musa also joined the meeting.

Quamrul Islam Chowdhury urged the ministry to use its functionalities to disseminate the environmentally enriched cultural messages to the people at grassroots level.

"Despite our exposure as a disaster-prone country, we have culturally nourished and protected our nature over the centuries," he said.

Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury said it is now well established that conservation of environment is a prerequisite for sustainable development. He agreed that the cultural affairs ministry had an important role to play in environmental conservation.



State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman exchanges views with the members of the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh at the conference room of the ministry yesterday.



Newly appointed Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury receiving a crest from Supreme Court Bar Association president Md Ojaer Faruk and general secretary MA Hafiz at a reception accorded to him by the association in the city yesterday.



Prof Muzaffer Ahmed presenting a book titled 'Contemporary Issues in Development' to Dr Quazi Kholiqzaman Ahmed, chairman of the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, at the launching ceremony of the book in the city yesterday. The book contains articles dedicated in honour of economist OK Ahmed.

পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ
POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.
 (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
 Red Crescent Concord Tower, 17, Mohakhali C/A, 6th Floor, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh

INVITATION FOR BIDS
 FOR THE
DESIGN-BUILD AND TURNKEY CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MYMENSINGH P.S. - JOYDEVPUR 132KV DOUBLE CIRCUIT TRANSMISSION LINE

Memo No. 01/PGCB/Sec/2002/841
 Date: July 15, 2002
 Contract No. PGCB/M/1

- The Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. (PGCB) (hereinafter referred to as "the Employer") invites sealed international bids for Design-Build & Turnkey Contract for Construction of Mymensingh P.S. - Joydevpur 132Kv double circuit transmission line (approx. 85km) as defined in the bidding document (hereinafter referred to as "the Works").
- Bidders (partner in charge in case of Joint Venture) must have successfully completed on turnkey basis, at least three (3) comparable contracts (a comparable contract shall mean design, supply, installation and commissioning of minimum 50km double circuit transmission lines of 132 kV or higher voltage) within the last ten (10) years of which at least one installation shall be in successful operation for minimum of three years as on the date of Bid opening.
- Bidders must also have project management experience (experience of partner in charge in case of Joint Venture) to demonstrate their management capability in at least one turnkey project (contract amount should not be less than US\$ 3.0 million) outside their own country within the last ten (10) years.
- The Works under this turnkey contract shall be completed within 22 (twenty two) months from the date of signing of the Contract.
- Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. (PGCB), Red Crescent Concord Tower (6th floor), 17, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212, Tel: 880-2-9888589 & 9888970, Fax: 880-2-9888501.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the Company Secretary, PGCB at the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of USD 250.00 (United States Dollar two hundred and fifty only) or Tk. 15,000.00 (Taka fifteen thousand only) in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft in favour of the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd.
- A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two sealed envelopes, one containing the technical proposal and one containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals will be opened. The price proposals will remain un-opened and will be kept in the custody of the Employer until the time of bid opening of the price proposals.
- All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of US\$ 250.00 (United States Dollar two hundred fifty thousand only) and must be delivered to the Company Secretary, Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd., Red Crescent Concord Tower (6th floor), 17, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212, Tel: 880-2-9888589 & 9888970, Fax: 880-2-9888501 on or before 2:00pm BST on September 15, 2002. The bid security must be included with the technical proposal. The technical proposals will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- The price proposals of the bidders whose Technical Proposals are considered responsive will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after evaluation of the technical proposals.
- PGCB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids including costs and expenses related to visits to the sites of installation of the Works.

(Mohammed Salim)
 Company Secretary