

## Murder case against Hasina Ramna police asked to update CMM's Court on investigation

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM's) Court, Dhaka yesterday directed the officer-in-charge (OC) of Ramna police station to update the court on investigation into a murder case against former prime minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and two others.

Magistrate Mohammad Emdadul Haq passed the order following filing of a petition yesterday by the complainant of the case.

The two others are former senior SP Hafizur Rahman Laskar and Motiur Rahman Runtu, writer and publisher of a book - "Amar Fansi Chai (I want to be hanged).

In the petition, complainant Advocate Gazi Raibul Islam Sagar, an assistant public prosecutor at the District Judge's Court, Dhaka said he filed the case on March 14 against the accused. The complaint was taken into cognisance and the OC of Ramna thana was directed to investigate the case and take

proper action, but to no effect, the complainant said yesterday.

In the case it was alleged that in 1983 Hasina along with the two others had planned to oust HM Ershad from power through violence.

They had planned that a procession would be brought out from the Dhaka University campus and police would open fire on it. Some students would be killed or injured and an anti-Ershad movement would get intensified.

Accordingly, on February 14, 1983, at about 10 am, a procession was brought out from Aparajeyo Bangla at Dhaka University. As the procession reached the Doel Chatter, the then SP Hafizur Rahman Laskar fired on it, killing two students - Joyal and Zafar - the complainant said.

The complainant also claimed that he collected evidences from Runtu's book regarding involvement of Hasina and the two others in the incident.

## HC rule on quashing case against Saber Chy stayed

BSS, Dhaka

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court rule on quashing a criminal case against Awami League leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury partly granting a government leave to appeal.

The Appellate Division, however, retained his bail order issued along with the High Court rule asking the government to explain why the proceedings of the criminal case filed against Chowdhury on August 20, 2002 should not be quashed.

The full court of the Appellate Division comprising Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin, Justice KM Hasan and Justice Syed JR Mudassir Hossain passed the order after hearing the both sides.

According to the case Saber was allegedly involved in an attack on the motorcade of the then opposition leader Khaleda Zia in Savar area on June 17, 2001.

Saber, now detained in jail under the 1974 Special Powers Act (SPA), was also shown arrest under the case.

Additional Attorney General Abdur Rezak Khan and Deputy Attorney General Ataur Rahman Khan appeared for the state while advocate Mahubey Alam for the Awami League leader.

## Motorcade attack Bail petition of Sk Selim rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday rejected the bail petition of former health minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim.

Sheikh Selim is an accused in a case filed with Keraniganj police station in connection with an attack on the motorcade of the then opposition leader Khaleda Zia on June 17 last year.

Judge ATM Fazle Kabir passed the order following a criminal revision/seeking bail submitted by the defence lawyers on behalf of the accused.

The defence lawyers submitted the revision to the Judge's Court on October 31 after the bail petition was rejected by the First Class Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.

The court rejected the bail petition on October 27.

Selim, also chairman of Awami Jubo League, was arrested on October 21 from his Banani residence in the city and later shown arrested under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

He was also shown arrested in a case filed with Madaripur police station in connection with the attack on the motorcade of the then opposition leader Khaleda Zia on June 17 last year.

## Equipment, furniture of NHH gutted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fire gutted equipment and furniture worth about Tk 1.10 crore of the National Healthcare Network (NHN) at Green Road Panthopath in the city yesterday morning.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire originated at about 5 am from an electric short circuit on the second floor of a six-storied building of NHN, a sister organisation of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh.

Fire fighters from Mohammadpur, Plassey and headquarters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze.

A five-members committee has been formed to prove the incident.

## 3 get life term for murder in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Three persons were sentenced to life term imprisonment in the sensational Mukul murder case.

The convicts are Lijbor, Moya Uddin and Mohsin. The court also fined the convicts Tk 5000 each, in default, they have to suffer one more year in jail.

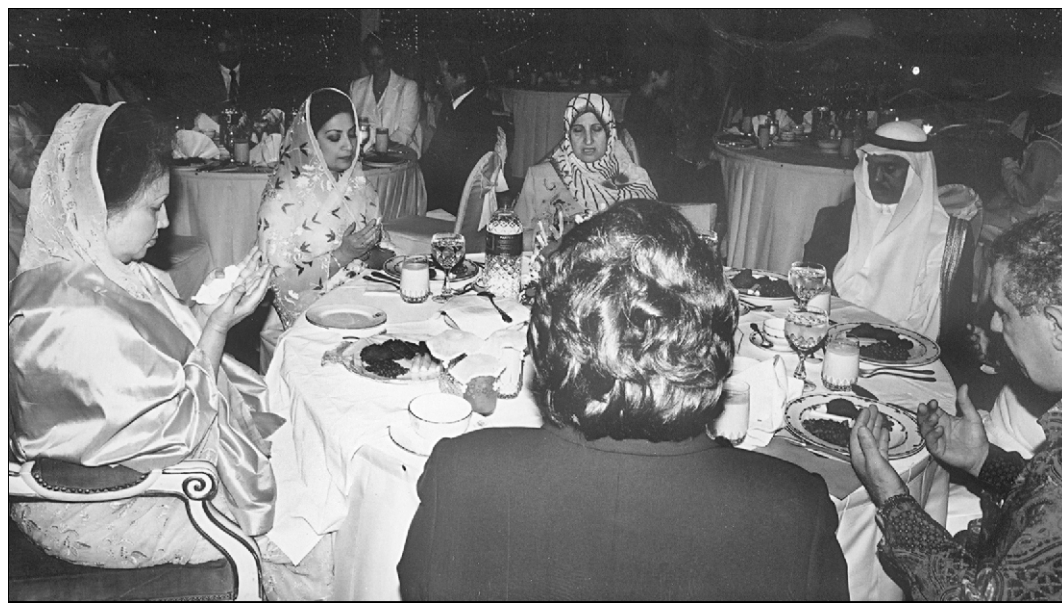
According to the prosecution, the accused abducted Mukul of Paba upazila on April 25, 1998 and then killed him.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Iftekhar Rasul Siddique pronounced the judgement yesterday.

## Saifur

FROM PAGE 1 tance", jointly organized by Bangladesh Bank and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Among others, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed and FBCCI President Yussuf Abdullah Harun spoke on the occasion.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia offers prayers at an iftar party attended by foreign diplomats and mission chiefs of international agencies at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

## AL sit-in: Speaker

FROM PAGE 1 so we'll hand over the memorandum to him inside his chamber."

A delegation comprising senior AL lawmakers then entered Sircar's office at 1:25pm and discussed with him the issues stated in the memorandum for about half an hour.

Later talking to newsmen at his chamber, the Speaker said he would try to protect the privileges and prestige of the lawmakers as guaranteed by the law. About the sit-in in front of his office, Sircar said, "I did not obstruct their programme. I encouraged them and help them exercise their freedom of expression."

About the demand for release of the arrested lawmakers prior to the next session, the Speaker said he would talk to the prime minister and the home minister for protecting the privileges of the lawmakers. The Speaker also informed that he received an AL memorandum that he earlier on October 23 had also been handed over to the home minister.

When asked whether he was informed beforehand of the arrests of AL lawmakers Sheikh Selim and Talukdar Khaleq, and independent legislator Hameyetullah Auranga, the Speaker said, "I was not informed beforehand, it was not

necessary either. I was informed once they were arrested."

Talking to reporters, the deputy opposition leader regretted that MPs were being arrested like ordinary criminals under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code. "No lawmaker should be detained this way; MPs are elected representatives of the people and they are known to all. If there is any specific charge against any lawmaker, he or she can go to the courts in person," Hamid, also a former speaker, added.

Earlier, some 20 AL lawmakers spoke during the two-hour sit-in programme. They expressed deep concern at the arrests of lawmakers and deaths of people in custody.

Abdus Samad Azad alleged that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had called out army without consulting the parliament, the Speaker and the opposition leader. "We want her (Khaleda) to explain in the very first sitting of the coming session the legal basis of the army drive and the custodial deaths."

Suranjit Sengupta said, "We got 24 dead bodies in 24 days of anti-crime drive. Khaleda Zia has to face murder cases."

Mohammad Nasim said, "Today people want to know whether they can die a natural death. The army

which is to protect the sovereignty of the country is now asking women to cover their heads with scarf."

SAMS Kibria, Faruq Khan, Asaduzzaman Noor, Kazi Zafarullah, Shahjahan Khan, Mirza Azam, Rahmat Ali, Lutfar Rahman, Shawkat Ali, Saedul Haq, Panchanan Biswas, Hamida Banu Shova, AKM Jahangir, Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj, Ahsanullah Master, MR Talukdar, Delwar Hossain, and Atiur Rahman Atiq also spoke at the sit-in programme.

## Defamation case

FROM PAGE 12 November 6 that classes would begin from November 10 and administrative activities will resume on November 9.

But the students, teachers and officials could enter the VNSC premises either on November 9 or yesterday.

When contacted yesterday, acting VNSC Principal Rowena Hossain told reporters that they had not received any court order.

Asked to comment on the prevailing situation, she declined to do so saying that a case was pending on the issue.

Meanwhile, university Registrar

## Viqarunnisa Varsity

FROM PAGE 12 November 6 that classes would begin from November 10 and administrative activities will resume on November 9.

But the students, teachers and officials could enter the VNSC premises either on November 9 or yesterday.

When contacted yesterday, acting VNSC Principal Rowena Hossain told reporters that they had not received any court order.

Asked to comment on the prevailing situation, she declined to do so saying that a case was pending on the issue.

Meanwhile, university Registrar

Abdus Sattar told The Daily Star yesterday that they would file a case for contempt of court today against the VNSC governing body.

The registrar pointed out that the VNSC did receive the court order saying "I myself handed it over to them."

"If they did not get the order, why did they file an appeal against it Saturday?" he asked.

The registrar further said that based on the court order, they tried to obtain permission to enter the compound several times. The acting principal not only refused to allow us in, but also refused to meet with us, he said.

Sources said, the Court, on November 5, expressed sympathy regarding the break in academic lives of 133 students of the university and asked the governing body to keep the academic activities on.

However, the case filed by the governing body, challenging the hand over procedure of the VNSC land and funds to the university, will run, court sources said.

The governing body alleged irregularities in the transferring of land and funds of VNSC during the setting up of the university and closed down the university on September 13. The students, teachers and officials of the university were barred from entering the premises since then.

## One gets 40-yr RI for rape

UNB, Chittagong

A court here yesterday convicted a man and sentenced him to 40 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) for abducting and raping a teenage girl in 1995.

Judge ANM Bashirullah dealing with woman and child repression cases also sentenced two other persons in absentia to 10 years' RI for helping the main convict, Bashir Ahmed, 28, son of Yunus Sharif of Sheikhati in Patuakhali Sadar.

Bashir was awarded 10 years' jail for abduction and another 30 years for rape while his accomplices Didarul Alam, 25, and Babul Ahmed, 25, of Burischar, Fatikchhari got 10 years' RI each.

According to the prosecution, Bashir with the help of Didarul and Babul kidnapped 14-year-old Ayesha Akhter Beauty, daughter of Abul Kashem Munshi of Burischar, on November 9, 1995 and raped her after bringing her to Chittagong.

Police rescued Beauty and arrested Bashir on November 16 from Bashir's village home in Patuakhali.

## Free access

FROM PAGE 1 The balance of trade between Australia and Bangladesh is heavily in favour of Australia. During the year 2001-2002, Bangladesh exported Tk151 crore worth of goods from Australia while importing goods worth over Tk 1000 crore from it.

Bangladesh export items include readymade garments, chemical fertiliser, jute, jute goods, leather and ceramics.

## Advani's remarks

FROM PAGE 12 expressed the hope that due restraint would be exercised by all concerned so that the atmosphere of friendship between the two neighbours is not affected.

Indian High Commission officials told UNB that Tripathy conveyed to the foreign secretary that he is not in a position to comment on remarks of Deputy Prime Minister Advani "who speaks with full sense of responsibility based on reliable information available to him".

The envoy said Advani had only reiterated India's "serious concerns" which were earlier conveyed to Bangladesh government on different occasions.

The Indian High Commissioner also raised the issues of repatriation and whereabouts of Sanjit Deb Burman, member of the outlawed ATTF, repatriation of ULFA general secretary Anup Chetia, his associates Babul Sharma and LP Goswami and the whereabouts of three self-confessed Naga militants arrested in December last year.

Tripathy alleged that Sanjit Deb Burman receives legal assistance while Anup Chetia and his associates are being given "first-class hospitality" in jail.

During the meeting with the foreign secretary, the Indian envoy said inadequate actions in regard to

these cases sent "wrong signals" to the Indian insurgents that "Dhaka is supportive" of their anti-Indian agenda, which causes "serious misgivings in New Delhi".

He said the Indian government expects that the Bangladesh government would treat this matter seriously and "initiate immediate action".

## Ctg port

FROM PAGE 12 kept smuggled goods at the security barrack under the guard of Jahangir Arafat. They also bribed the port and customs officials regularly to ensure a safe passage.

The joint forces of army and police are now examining all information given by the three security guards on remand that ended yesterday. The arrestees might be produced before the court for a second phase of remand, said sources.

Director (security) of the Chittagong port Lt Col Shaheed Sarwar took an initiative to seize one of such consignments carried by a vessel a month ago.

The latest consignment of smuggled gold was offloaded on October 31. But the gold bars could not reach the godfather thanks to the ongoing army-led anticrime operation.

## DCC tender

FROM PAGE 1 commissioners.

The contractors had to give 10 per cent of the tender value to ward commissioners and two per cent to executive engineers in advance as commission, the press reports had said.

But the executive engineers at the briefing refuted the allegations. They said none interfered in their work and the contractors collected and dropped tender schedules freely.

DCC Chief Engineer Quamruzzaman Mahmud who earlier gave 'notes' to the Mayor through the Chief Executive Officer recommending cancellation of the tenders explained his position at the briefing.

He said the 'notes' were given on the basis of newspaper reports.

In the notes, he had stated that in view of the press reports, the tenders could be cancelled and fresh tenders floated to ensure transparency.

He said he did not tell the press that the tender procedure was not free and fair.

He however admitted that on October 28, the last date for dropping tenders, about 35 contractors verbally complained to him that they could not collect tender schedules from DCC's zonal offices due to "interference". He then telephoned the zonal offices and asked the executive engineers to give them (contractors) tender schedules, he

said. The chief engineer also pointed out that a DGI official was present at his office on October 27 and recorded his conversations with visitors and with persons outside over telephone.

He also mentioned that a reporter of The Inqilab - Abdur Rahim - also collected tender schedule.

## Trimohoni

FROM PAGE 1 According to him, cattle mortality rate is extremely high in the area and he blames it on the pollution.

"This pollution is killing us, we want it to end. We will hold a procession on November 16 to press home our demand for an affluent treatment plant at Rampura bridge point," Mohammad Ali said.

When asked why the proposed deep tubewell has not been sunk in Trimohoni although the local people donated a piece of land, Managing Director of WASA Dr Khandakar Azharul Huq said the land has to be legally WASA's before any such plan can be implemented.

"Without an agreement for the proposed land, we cannot do anything. And remember that Trimohoni does not fall within our service area. We are doing a kind of special arrangement for them," Dr Huq said.

## JU student

FROM PAGE 12 the 1998-99 academic session and a resident student of Al-Beruni Hall, physically harassed the SUST lecturer October 17.

The victim was on a rickshaw when Aminul attacked her near Meer Mosharrif Hossain (MMH) Hall.

Hearing the victim's plea for help students in the vicinity rushed to her aid and handed Amin over to the provost of the MMH hall, Shamsul Alam Selim. Amin later gave a confessional statement to the provost.

Proctor Professor Mojibar Rahman served Amin a showcause notice on October 19 and Amin submitted his reply on October 30 denying the allegation. He said he was forced the MMH hall students into making a confession.

Following the incident, the authorities postponed viva voce, reports and practical tests of the MSc examination of statistics for an indefinite period.

When contacted yesterday, Professor Rahman said the papers

for which Amin had already appeared would be cancelled and he would be barred from taking part in any academic or administrative activities within the next one year.

"Meanwhile, we have asked the examination committee to resume the examinations as soon as possible," the proctor added.

Talking to The Daily Star after the meeting yesterday, the SUST lecturer expressed her dissatisfaction over the committee's recommendation saying that the punishment was not enough for such an offence.

"The university must introduce specific rules in the 'Proctorial Law' to put a check to such incidents," she said adding that highest punishment - expulsion for life and cancellation of studentship and certificate - must be awarded for such an offence.

Meanwhile, Munirul Islam, president of the Bangladesh Chhatra Union, JU unit, also said one-year expulsion is too lenient a punishment for Amin's crime, terming it eyewash.

## Iraq: UN inspectors

FROM PAGE 12

"The Arab ministers welcomed Iraq's acceptance of Resolution 1441, following assurances from Syria that this resolution does not provide for automatic military action (against Baghdad)," Prince Saud told reporters in Cairo, after the meeting ended early Sunday.

However, Iraqi Foreign Minister Najib Sabri insisted Baghdad had still "not announced its position".

His Egyptian counterpart Ahmed Maher, who held talks with him both Saturday and Sunday, noted "statements at the highest level in Baghdad on the readiness to cooperate with any resolution which carries assurances that it does not foresee a military strike".

The new resolution adopted Friday imposes a stringent arms inspection regime on Baghdad and warns of "serious consequences" if it does not disarm.

Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed the fact that it "does not contain a mechanism for the use of force".

But the sole Arab member of the Security Council, Syria, was not so sure.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara conceded that the resolution "rules out the spectre of war for several weeks or several months," but added that it also contains "traps and ambiguities which can be negative".

"We hope that our Iraqi brothers do not yield to American provocations from now on, because the provocations are a means which the United States is counting on a lot to say Iraq has not respected UN resolutions."

Adding substance to his warnings, key US ally Australia said Sunday it remained ready to back the United States if it took military action against Iraq to punish any infraction, even without specific UN endorsement.

"We say it is then their (Washington's) responsibility to ensure, through whatever means is necessary, that that resolution is implemented in full," said Defence Minister Robert Hill.

Another US ally, Britain, was less sure. Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon insisted it would be for the Security Council to decide what action to take if UN weapons inspectors reported a breach by Iraq.

"Obviously there would have to be a discussion amongst members of the Security Council at that stage."

The New York Times meanwhile reported that war plans approved by President George W Bush included

a shorter air campaign than in the 1991 Gulf War, but deployment of up to 250,000 troops.

The air campaign would last less than a month and would build on lessons learned in Afghanistan, such as using infiltrated commandos to help home precision-guided missiles in on their targets, according to the Times, quoting unnamed senior administration officials.

"While we would not want to kill many Iraqi soldiers, if they stupidly fight, we will," a senior military official told the Times.

And Britain will also begin mobilising a fighting force of 15,000 troops this week to take part in a land war in Iraq if diplomatic efforts to disarm Saddam fail, the Sunday Telegraph reported.

A defence ministry spokeswoman dismissed the report but Hoon confirmed that Britain was "not ruling out the use of force" and would remain "prepared" for military action.

The Syrian foreign minister said he believed the "spark" would be a "report from (UN weapons) inspectors."

But the United Nations' twin inspections chiefs made clear in Arabic press interviews Sunday that they planned to refrain from provoking Iraq.

"I do not think we are going to kick down doors," the chairman of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Hans Blix, told the London-based daily Al-Hayat.

"We will behave firmly, seriously and with tact."

The director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohammed el-Baradei, said the inspectors would use "common sense".

"That means that our demand for immediate access does not include breaking into houses."

The Economist Intelligence Unit said it believed a US-led attack remained highly likely next year, anticipating that it would be quick with only a limited impact on the world economy.

"The effects of a war should be confined mainly to changes in the price of oil," the London-based think tank said.

In Europe, peace campaigners remained vigilant about the continuing possibility of war, calling continuing-wide protests for February 15 after hundreds of thousands marched in Florence, Italy, Saturday.



Police stand guard at the piled-up unlicensed rickshaws seized in a drive at the Kakrail intersection in the city yesterday.