

# Shazneen case

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during the cross-examination for over three and a half hours.

After the cross-examination by Shahid's lawyer, Simeen was cross-examined by the lawyers of accused Hasan, Minu and Parvin.

The court then adjourned the hearing till noon tomorrow.

The court also directed the prosecution side to produce another witness before the court on that day.

During the cross-examination, Simeen told the court that all the accused in the case were present at the spot on the night of April 23, 1998 when Shazneen was raped and murdered. But Shahid was missing. Later, Shahid was arrested and he was taken to the place of occurrence on September 27, 1998, she said.

Simeen also told the court that prior to the incident Shazneen was talking to her boy friend Abed over telephone.

The witness told the court that investigation officers (IOs) recorded her statements on May 2, 1998 in the Shazneen murder case and on October 5 in the same year in the Shazneen rape case.

Shahid voluntarily confessed to the rape and the killing and he was not forced to do this, Simeen said.

Simeen further said Humayun, another accused (now dead), was taken to her parents' house to recover the chisel, used to hit the victim.

"After the incident, I thought that my father should have been informed what Shazneen had told me on April 3 about Hasan. On that day (April 3) Shazneen told me that Hasan had grabbed her at her bathroom on April 1 with an ill motive. Later I was convinced that Hasan was the mastermind behind the killing," Simeen said.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence in the city on

## SUST teachers

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petition in this regard.

On the other hand, university authorities claimed that the appointments of the two teachers were yet to be included under the revenue budget and as such there were no legal provisions to let them go on a study leave with salary. However, they were granted study leave without pay on humanitarian grounds, the authorities added.

# BDR, police on alert

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said a high official of the home ministry, preferring anonymity.

A counter-intelligence will keep eyes on the RAT to see whether its members are involved in corruption. Assignments have already been prepared to be handed over to the RAT members.

Sources said all the DIGs, SPs, NSI, DB, SB and other officials concerned and units have been instructed to keep vigil round the clock so that the listed criminals, who went into hiding during the joint drive, cannot reorganise and commit any crime.

BDR have also been asked to keep an eye on the borders so that the criminals who have taken refuge to the neighbouring country cannot come in through the border. They have been asked to arrest suspected persons while leaving or entering the country.

Meanwhile, talking to The Daily Star State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar said the joint drive has brought much relief to public life. "We will try our best to

maintain the situation so that people can live without any fear."

He said the joint drive is very much on and it will continue as long as necessary. The government is determined to maintain law and order at any cost, he added.

About press reports that criminals have become active immediately after army withdrawal, he said some newspaper carried exaggerated reports. The authorities concerned verified those reports with police and local administrations and found them untrue.

Babar said steps have been taken to bring necessary reforms to the police force to enhance their skill and performance. The government is trying its best to enhance logistics supports and is arranging regular, modern training of the law enforcers.

"Our intention is good...we really want a peaceful situation in the country and so we are proceeding with a lot of things to ensure peace and security in public life," he added.

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The commerce ministry earlier in December 2001 okayed a proposal for transhipment of Indian fruits and related products through Bangladesh to the northeastern Indian states.

As per the decision, Bangladeshi traders were supposed to import Indian goods and then re-export them to the northeastern states. But the finance minister later turned down the proposal.

In its new guideline for rescheduling term loans, the BB said while rescheduling loans for the first time, the borrower will have to deposit 15 per cent of the defaulted instalments or 10 per cent of the total outstanding amount, whichever is less, in cash as down payment.

For the second time loan rescheduling, the borrower will have to deposit 30 per cent of the defaulted instalments or 20 per cent of the total outstanding amount, whichever is less, in cash. And in case of rescheduling more than twice, the borrower will have to deposit 50 per cent of the defaulted instalments or 30 per cent of the total outstanding, whichever is less, again in cash.

If the bad debts are not fully provided for, then the banks may deduct required funds from their current year's income to write them off, the BB instruction said.

Even after the write-off, the borrowers would still be identified as defaulters and the banks will have to have a constant effort to

realise the loans. The banks will set up their own 'debt units' to realise the written-off bad debts and may also appoint other institutions to realise them.

Also, the banks will continue legal procedures against the borrowers. And if cases do not exist against any bad loan, the bank will file one before writing it off.

The banks will have to maintain separate ledgers for the written-off loans to be shown in the annual reports.

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The officiating ASPs and the government then filed two leave petitions against the order with the Appellate Division. After hearing, the bench upheld the judgement of the Administrative Tribunal.

Dr Kamal Hossain, Advocate Khadakar Mahbub Uddin and Advocate Mahbubur Rahman moved the petition for the directly recruited ASPs. Barrister Moinul Hossain and Wadud Bhuiyan stood for the departmental ASPs. Additional Attorney General Abdur Razzaq represented the government.

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## Bogra DC transferred, stand-released

UNB, Bogra

Deputy Commissioner Safizuddin Ahmed has been transferred and stand-released.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Rafiqul Mohamed took over the charge of DC on Sunday.

Safizuddin Ahmed was made Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Ministry of Establishment. The cause behind his transfer and stand-release could not be known.

Sources said Ahmed had a strained relation with local politicians and journalists ever since he joined as DC of the district.

Finally, a 'distance' developed between Ahmed and the local MPs.

## Saber

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Mirza Hossain Haider granted bail to Saber.

The authorities filed four cases in connection with the Mymensingh blast on December 7.

Saber Chowdhury was arrested on December 8 under Section 54 without any specific charge. On December 28, he was shown arrested in one of the Mymensingh blast case. Saber got bail from the High Court afterwards.

Saber was released as per a High Court order yesterday.

However, anticipating that the government might try to arrest him in the remaining three cases, Saber moved bail petitions in the High Court.

The other bench of Justices Hamidul Haq and Salma Masud Chowdhury ordered the authorities not to arrest or search Saber's residence and business establishments without proper warrant.

Saber pleaded to the High Court yesterday that the police yesterday raided his house twice and harassed him.

Advocate Mahbub Alam moved the petitions on behalf of Saber.

Meanwhile, Awami League Presidium member Tofail Ahmed yesterday got bail in a murder case from the High Court division bench of Justices Syed Amirul Islam and Mirza Hossain Haider.

The trial was adjourned to January 10.

Three local companies, Union Trading Company Limited, Taher Imprex, and Nitan have sought permission from the commerce ministry for importing wheat, boulder salt and mustard seed declaring their quantity.

After processing and packing in the country, these products would be re-exported to other countries and the companies would be able to retain 50 per cent value addition, the meeting was told.

Value of import and export would be settled against back-to-back bank L/Cs provided by the buyers. Local importers will have to produce bank guarantees for releasing raw materials for their duties and taxes and get back the guarantee after re-exporting those goods.

If the exporter fails to re-export goods in time, the government would collect the duties and taxes from bank guarantee.

As per the existing export policy, exporters are not required to seek permission from the commerce ministry in case of re-export on case to case basis. The value addition requirement has been reduced to five percent from 10 per cent, the meeting was told.

If these three firms succeed, the companies willing to re-export would not be required to seek permission from the ministry in future, said a source who attended the meeting.

The exporters would not be allowed to use the name of Bangladesh as the country of origin and the goods to be re-exported will have to be tagged with a statement that these items were imported temporarily.

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## HC verdicts

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effect from March 20, 1991. But the Public Service Commission (PSC) recommended that their promotion be effective from January 28, 1998.

The ASPs recruited directly by the PSC went to the Administrative Tribunal against the order. The tribunal in its verdict said the promotion was not sustainable. Then the government and the officiating ASPs took the case to the Appellate Tribunal, which also upheld the verdict.

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Sources said 85 of the officiating ASPs were made Additional Superintendents of Police (ASP) during the period.

They said the move created rancour among the directly recruited ASPs as the departmental Assistant SPs became Additional SPs superceding those who were directly recruited by the PSC much earlier.

Talking to The Daily Star, leader of

# Gas gap keeps yawning

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trial production in Savar Export Processing Zone, Manikganj, and Joydevpur industrial belt. The Power Development Board (PDB) has been forced to cut power generation by about 300 MW since Sunday.

Over 20 localities in the city are affected by low gas pressure, or almost nil gas flow during daytime. However, gas supply improves at night.

Every winter the gas supply falls, on varying degrees, as low temperature reduces the gas-flow capacity of the pipelines. A severe cold and an increase in gas consumption worsened the crisis from Sunday last.

Against a gas production of 1103 mmcfd Sunday, the consumption was 1163 mmcfd. This extra gas came from storage inside the 1200 km of pipelines. As the consumption was higher than the supply, the gas flow pressure fell, said GTCL sources. The condition remained unchanged yesterday.

The gas flow was less than usual Sunday also because three wells in Kailashtila gas-field were

shut down for maintenance. Instead of producing 60 mmcfd, Kailashtila supplied only 4 mmcfd Sunday. However, it resumed normal production yesterday.

The Titas gas system is facing extra pressure because the PDB has launched operation of the Ghorashal power unit 4. Combined with five other power plants, the Ghorashal units were producing 890 MW power Sunday consuming, at the rate of 8 million cubic feet per hour, 192-mmcf gas. But by the evening the gas pressure fell down to 6.5 million cubic feet per hour and power production came down to 600 MW, said a PDB source.

Titas could have had augmented gas supply from Sangu field in Chittagong, as the Rauzan 210 MW power plant remains inoperative for maintenance.

Malaysia has complained that higher migration cost prompts Bangladeshi workers to hop from one job to the other and proposed a \$1,000 ceiling.

While the government has accepted the proposal, there has

not been any response from Malaysia on resumption of fresh recruitment as yet.

# Joy for Bangladesh

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The hosts also scored an identical 1-0 win against Nepal on Friday.

With this win Bangladesh topped Group B with six points. Pakistan was the first team to confirm their place in the last four from Group A.

Earlier, in the first match of the day, Nepal blanked newcomers Bhutan 2-0 to stay in the title race. The booters of the Himalayan kingdom will now have to battle it out with Maldives on Wednesday to determine who join Bangladesh in the semifinals from the last four.

Defending champions India on the other hand face Sri Lanka today to decide the other semifinalists in the eight-team meet.

Back to the day's fast-paced match, Bangladesh enjoyed a better first half with midfield playmaker Arman Miah operating like a true general. His wonderful dribbling, probing crosses and silky touches definitely showed his true class.

Bangladesh could have taken the lead as early as the second minute but not Parvez Babu's

scorching grounder missed the mark by an inch.

The home team came close to scoring again in the 32nd minute when ace striker Alfaz, who scored

the winner against Nepal on Saturday, delivered a low cross from the right. But both Parvez and Joy failed to take a clean hit in front of the goal.

But Maldives, who remained

busy defending inside their own half for much of the time, still created the best opportunity in the match.

Mohammed Nizam fired a spectacular 30-yard curling free kick but Bangladesh custodian Aminul Islam flung his right to tip it over for a corner.

Aminal's brilliance came into play again in the 58th when the country's number one keeper fisted a close shot by Abdul Ghani over the bar.

**Yellow cards:** Rajani, Hasan al Mamun (Bangladesh), Hussain Habeeb (Maldives).

**TEAMS**

**Bangladesh:** Aminul, Hasan al Mamun, Rajani, Nazrul, Sujon, Parvez, Motiur Munna, Arman, Joy, Kanchan and Alfaz (Farhad).

**Maldives:** Imran, Ibrahim, Fazeel, Nizam, Ismail (Luthfi), Assad, Ahmed Naaz (Azeem), Habeeb, Jameel, Hussain and Shiham (Umar).

**Referee:** AD Silva (Sri Lanka).

# BGMEA polls deferred