

Judgement in
Mondal murder
case May 29

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A speedy trial tribunal yesterday set May 29 for judgement on the killing of advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal in Old Dhaka.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1, Dhaka Division scheduled the date after completion of arguments from prosecution and defence counsels.

Earlier, the tribunal recorded statements of 27 out of 46 prosecution witnesses and framed charges against Sardir Rahman Shahid, a ward commissioner, and 17 others on January 9 this year. The trial began on January 14.

Habibur Rahman Mondal, 44, joint secretary of the city BNP and leader of the Jatiyatabdai Aijibhi Parishad, was shot dead by a gang at Chandra Mohon Basak Lane in Banogram in Old Dhaka on August 20, 2000. He came under attack when he and his muhuri (clerk) were heading for court by motor-bike.

Mohammed Abdul Haider Huiyan, a BNP activist, filed a murder case with the Sutrapur Police Station against four people the same day.

But Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, then officer-in-charge (OC) of the Sutrapur Police Station and investigation officer of the case,

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**Two workers
electrocuted
in Old Dhaka**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two construction workers were electrocuted at Siddikbazar yesterday.

The victims have been identified as Lal Mia, 25, and Abdul Ali, 35, both from Khajurbaria village in Baufal, Patuakhali.

While pulling iron bars, the two were electrocuted as an iron bar came into contact with high-voltage electric cables hanging overhead.

The incident occurred at around 10:00am. Both died on the spot.

In another incident at Elephant Road, a labourer fell from a building and died on the way to hospital.

Raku, 14, son of one Rafiq of Lalmonirhat, slipped from the 13th floor of the building at around 11:45am.

All three bodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

**'Tarabo polls
hijacked'**

UNB, Dhaka

A chairman candidate of Tarabo Pourasava in Narayanganj alleged that yesterday's election to the municipality was marred by massive irregularities and demanded re-polling.

"Voters could not turn up at the polling stations due to threat by armed criminals. They even drove out my polling agents from almost all the centres," Mahabubur Rahman Khan told journalists at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday afternoon.

Mahabub, a pro-Awami League candidate with the election symbol of "umbrella", alleged that there were no BDR troops or any magistrate at the polling stations till 11am, allowing the armed cadres to prevent people from casting their votes.

Awami League leader Maj Gen (retd) Shafiqullah, Colonel (retd) Faruk Khan, MP, and Tanjim Ahmed Sohel, MP, who visited a number of election centres in the Pourasava, were also present at the press conference.

They also alleged that they were threatened by armed criminals during the visit.

"This cannot be an election...it's a mockery of election. Many polling agents were assaulted by the cadres let loose by Textiles Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury," said Gen (retd) Shafiqullah.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
May 27		6:39 pm
May 28	5:12 am	

Prayer Timings

	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4:15	4:45
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	5:00	5:15
Magrib	6:45	6:49
Esha	8:15	8:45

Air crash kills over 60 Spanish peacekeepers

REUTERS, Ankara

to Zaragoza, Spain.

A Ukrainian Yak-42 plane carrying 62 Spanish peacekeepers returning from duty in Afghanistan and 13 crew crashed as it tried to land near Turkey's Black Sea city of Trabzon early yesterday, Turkish television said.

"It was due to land here but it never did," an official at Trabzon airport told Reuters.

Turkish government officials were not available for comment.

Television footage showed black, charred wreckage strewn over a foggy hillside near the small town of Macka, around 35 kilometres (22 miles) from Trabzon airport.

"We are trying to find out if the plane that crashed is actually the same one," he told Reuters.

He said Spain had contributed 120 peacekeepers to ISAF, which is responsible for helping to maintain security in the Afghan capital.

Private television station NTV reported that paramilitary police recovered 25 bodies but that there were no survivors.

Fire fighters and emergency personnel were at the scene.

Sait Topcu, a cleric at a mosque in a nearby village, said he had heard a loud explosion and hurried to the scene.

"There were flames everywhere.

I couldn't get close to it for 15 to 20 minutes," he told the CNN Turk

news channel.

A Spanish Defence Ministry spokesman confirmed that the plane was carrying soldiers returning from Afghanistan, but could not provide any further details.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Kolkken, a spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan, said a plane carrying 56 Spanish peacekeepers and a crew of six left Afghanistan on Sunday after the soldiers completed their mission with ISAF.

Turkish government officials were not available for comment.

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