

# Ruhul Amin murder case Court withdraws probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has set aside a lower court order for further investigation into the Ruhul Amin murder case against former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Haji Mohammad Selim and five others.

Judge Mohammad Motiur Rahman of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court on January 26 issued the order following the January 13 criminal revision filed by four of the accused in the case.

In its order, the judge said, "The Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka on December 30, 2003 directed the additional inspector general of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police for further investigation into the case without giving cogent grounds and reasons. So the CMM court order is set aside and the lower court is directed to dispose of the case."

According to the prosecution story, Monir Hossain and Moin Hossain allegedly gunned down their business rival Mohammad Ruhul Amin, a hide trader, at Sher-e-Bangla Road in Hazaribagh on March 20, 2002.

The victim's brother Mohammad Sohail lodged a murder case with Hazaribagh Police Station accusing Monir and Moin the next day.

Later, AL leader Haji Selim, Mohammad Mohit, Mohammad Nurul Amin, and Maksudur Rahman were shown arrested in the case.

In August 2003, Detective Branch of police submitted its final report before the court saying that the accused Moin and Monir did call out the victim but the case could not be proved without circumstantial evidences.

Submitting the report, the investigation officer in the case also prayed for acquitting the accused of the charges.

However, the CMM court on December 30 last year scrutinised the case diary and other relevant documents and ordered the CID to further investigate the case. The court also asked the authorities concerned to send the case docket to CID office for their information.

## Body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an unknown man from Mohammadpur area in the city on Monday night.

The body was recovered from in front of 2/8 Tajmahal Road at around 11.00pm.

# WB officials laud micro-credit, women empowerment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The visiting World Bank (WB) officials yesterday lauded the achievements in women empowerment and micro-credit operations in the country.

The success of girls' education is a matter of pride for Bangladesh, said Praful Patel, WB vice-president for South Asia Region.

Bangladesh is 'one of the very few countries where at least some of the Millennium Development Goals have been met', he added.

The WB official made the comments after visiting Grameen Bank centres and two primary schools in Singair Upazila of Manikganj district with a high-level delegation.

Their visit to Bangladesh was a part of global learning process in the run-up to the conference titled "Scaling up poverty reduction: A global learning process" to be held on May 24-27 in China. Yesterday was the last day of their visit.

The delegation members included James Adams, WB vice-president for Operations Policy and Country Services and Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta, secretary of state, Department of State for Education, Gambia. Christine Wallich, WB country director, accompanied them.

Appreciating the activities of NGOs working to empower women, Ndong-Jatta said, "You are blessed to have

some innovative individuals. They are doing things unimaginable with women standing beside men as equals."

Both the WB vice-presidents also praised the micro-credit operations of the NGOs, saying that the Grameen Bank, Brac and Bangladesh Rural Development Board are also providing quality education and health services for the rural poor.

Patel said the government has also created a conducive macro-environment and "hands-off" regulatory policy for the NGOs.

However, he said, market forces should always set interest rates,

according to economic theory.

Asked if NGO successes were going to shift WB's priority in providing aid to either the government or NGOs for development, Christine Wallich said the World Bank would look for a 'parallel tracks to development.'

The bank believes that the government should continue to provide the safety nets through education and health, while the platform to strengthen NGO activities in the long- and medium-term should also be prioritised, Wallich added.

The country director also welcomed the government decision to review the NGO regulating bill.

