

## Jail killing case

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Obaedur Rahman told Anisul: "Who are you? You are in charge of what? I will take steps to remove you."

On the same day, public prosecutor of the court Abdulla Mahmud Hasan was assigned to cooperate with the special prosecutors in running the case, triggering a 'feuding discord' between the special prosecutors and the public prosecutor.

The special prosecutors lodged a written complaint on February 17, accusing Abdullah of taking decisions on his own in conducting the case.

On March 21, the public prosecutor was given the overall responsibility of running the case that gave the special prosecutors an impression that the government did not want them to fight the case.

"We have presented some facts to the court linking the involvement of the defendants with the killing. This is why the defendants lobbied the government for putting us on the sidelines," Anisul said.

After taking office in October 2001 ballot, the present four-party coalition relieved Anisul and other prosecutors, who conducted the case under the past Awami League government, from the job without explaining a reason.

Deputy Leader of the

Opposition Abdul Hamid in a letter to Law Minister Moudud Ahmed in last November demanded their reinstatement.

The court has already recorded the statements of 29 witnesses of 75.

A group of unruly army men, backed by some political leaders, entered the jail on November 3, 1975 and killed four national leaders - Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, AHM Quamuzzaman and M Mansur Ali.

Kazi Abdul Awal, then deputy inspector general (prisons), filed a case with Lalbagh Police Station the next day, but an indemnity ordinance blocked the trial until 1996 when the AL repealed the law after being voted into office.

But the trial process continued to face legal loopholes.

Of the accused, Obaedur, Nurul Islam Manzoor, Shah Moazzem Hossain and retired army major Khairuzzaman got bail soon after the present government took office.

Taheruddin Thakur, dismissed army lieutenant colonel Syed Faruk Rahman, retired lieutenant colonel Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan and retired major Bazlul Huda are in custody.

Shariful Haq Dalim and 11 others went into hiding after investigation into the case opened.

## Robbers stab trucker dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Highway robbers killed a trucker and wounded his helper in Jessor on Tuesday.

Police said driver Montaz Ali Munna, 40, was taking 45 barrels of soybean oil said to be worth Tk 7 lakh in his truck to Amir Oil Mill in Jessor from Dhaka.

The robbers stopped the truck at gunpoint and stabbed Munna and helper Akhter at Sadipur in Bagherpara to force them to board a microbus.

One of the robbers of Tootpara in Khulna drove the oil-laden truck to Palash Food Industries at Jhunjhunpur BSIC industrial estate in Jessor.

Acting on a tip off, police rushed there, seized the truck and arrested Kawsar Ali, manager of the business establishment.

Police suspect the proprietor of the company, Subhash Saha now absconding, has link to the robbery.

Munna died at Jessor General Hospital.

## Third unit of Ghorasal power plant closed

UNB, Narsingdi

The third unit of Ghorashal thermal power plant was closed on Tuesday night for non-availability of adequate gas.

Abdul Khaque, manager (operation), said the 210mw unit ceased generation of electricity from 9:00pm.

Two other units having 80mw capacity remained closed since July last year.

The six-unit Ghorashal thermal power plant has total generation capacity of 920mw.

Narsingdi, an industrial district having a large number of textile factories, is experiencing loadshedding affecting production. Only 22mw power is supplied from Siddirganj out of its demand for 34mw.

## Genocide

FROM PAGE 1

On this night in 1971, the Pakistani junta launched "Operation Search Light" against the unarmed Bengalis. The Dhaka University was attacked and students exterminated in their hundreds. Death squads roamed the streets of Dhaka, killing some 7,000 people in a single night. It was only the beginning.

The decision on hartial was taken at a two-day meeting of the AL Central Working Committee with its chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair at the party's Dhanmondi office.

On any en-masse resignation from parliament, Jalil said: "We will take the right decision in right time. We will pull out all the stops to see the fall of the government."

The AL and the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal of Hasanul Haq Inu will form separate "no-confidence human chains" on March 30 and bring out Independence Day processions on March 26 in Dhaka.

The left-leaning 11-party alliance scheduled a protest meeting and rally for April 1 to condemn "suppression of democratic and progressive forces" and protect fundamental rights.

The AL and five left leaning parties -- the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Workers Party, JSD-Inu, Samyabadi Dal and Gano Azadi League -- observed a dawn-to-dusk hartial on March 6 along own party lines.

On support for the hartial, Jalil said: "Other parties will let us know after discussions at their party levels."

Explaining reasons for separate anti-government programmes, Mujahidul Islam Selim, CPB general secretary, said, "The left parties and Awami League are participating in the anti-government movement but it does not mean they will have to announce simultaneous programmes."

The CPB distanced itself from the AL programmes or other parties and said it was committed to its manifesto, WPB leaders say.

The WPB called a rally for March 26 to protest what it said was the government's "communal and imperialist traits".

Shah Mohammad Ruhul Quddus, a lawmaker of the Jamaat-e-Islami, an ally of the coalition, demanded a motion in the House condemning Muntasir Mamun for his newspaper write-up, as he alleged the writer made aggressive remarks against late president Ziaur Rahman in it.

**Ershad Shikder tries to commit suicide**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Condemned prisoner Ershad Shikder was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) in a critical condition as he made an abortive attempt to commit suicide in Khulna district jail at about 2:00pm yesterday.

According to the jail superintendent, Shikder went to a toilet attached to the condemned cell, taking permission from security guards and hit in his abdomen with the broken part of toothbrush box in a bid to commit suicide.

After while the on duty security guards entered the toilet, breaking open the door and found him lying unconscious and bleeding from the abdomen.

Shikder was first taken to the jail hospital and then shifted to the KMCH as his condition deteriorated. He was undergoing treatment in the prison cell of the hospital till the filling of this report at 6:00pm yesterday.

Chief jail warden Afzal Hossain and jail guard Liaquat Ali have been suspended on charge of neglect of duty, said Jail Superintendent Mohammad Farhad Hossain.

Ershad Shikder was arrested on August 11, 1999 in Jabo League leader Khalid Hossain murder case. Khalid was hacked to death by Shikder at Skid ghat on the night of May 16, 1999. He was given death penalty in the case on April 30, 2000 by Additional District and Sessions Judge, Khulna. The High Court upheld the judgement on January 28, 2003.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court dismissed Shikder's review petition on March 22 this year.

Rickshaw puller Anwarul received pellets in his right arm while driving by the area.

Si Faridul rushed Khuki and her daughter to DMCH. Anwarul was admitted at Orthopaedic Hospital.

## PM asks all

FROM PAGE 1

save the country and its ecology as India was withdrawing water during the dry season buildings dams on upper catchments of many common rivers.

She mentioned Bangladesh's efforts to resolve the bilateral conflict on water issue by taking it up to international level as well as discussing at diplomatic and JRC (Indo-Bangla Joint Rivers Commission) levels.

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