

CASE AGAINST BABUL SC asks govt to file regular leave to appeal by Saturday

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday asked the government to file a regular leave to appeal by Saturday against the High Court order that had granted bail to Nurul Islam Babul, a business tycoon, in a murder case.

A four-member bench headed by Chief Justice Syed J.R. Mudassar Husain passed the order after hearing both sides.

Babul, also owner of leading Bangla daily Jugantor, was arrested on March 20 in connection with the murder of a dredging worker at Badda in September last year.

Later he was shown arrested in an attempt-to-rape case.

1886 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,886 people including a listed criminal, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.



Orbis president arrives today

President and Executive Director of Orbis International Kathy Spahn arrives in Dhaka today on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, says a press release.

During her stay here, Spahn will visit some of the Orbis Programmes, inaugurate the new office of Sandhani Eye Bank in Dhaka and meet key personalities in the field of eye care services.

Orbis is an international non-profit, humanitarian organisation committed to preserving and restoring eye sight in the developing world through hands-on training of medical personnel and by strengthening the capacity of in-country eye care services and institutions.

Orbis's involvement in Bangladesh began in 1985 with the first visit of its teaching flying eye hospital. Since then, the Orbis plane visited Bangladesh six more times. In mid-1999, Orbis established a country office which operates eight long-term projects in Bangladesh.



PHOTO: STAR

(Left) Shop owners in Old Dhaka kept the shutters down until 2.00pm yesterday protesting rampant extortion and murder of businessmen. (Right) Nawabpur Shop Owners Association stages a demonstration at Nawabpur during the shutdown demanding safety of traders.

Care important dev partner of Bangladesh: Bhuiyan

BSS, Dhaka

Peter D Bell, President of the US-based international agency Care, called on LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his secretariat office here yesterday.

They discussed various matters relating to mutual interest, including the progress of the Integrated Food and Security Programme (IFSP).

Bhuiyan said Care is an important development partner of Bangladesh and is making special contribution to the development of infrastructure and local government system since its independence.

He hoped that the role of Care would continue in the coming days.

Care signed the agreement of Tk 751.50 crore IFSP with Bangladesh in July 1999, aimed at building food security and improving the living standards of the poor in the selected villages and urban areas under four projects, an official release said.

The tenure of the agreement will expire in December this year. In addition to the IFSP, Care has constructed 40 union council complexes and renovated 150 markets in rural areas.

Country Director of Care Steve Wallace was present at the meeting.

Proposal on 2nd Padma bridge awaits Ecnec nod

Huda tells Paturia-Daulatdia Padma Bridge Council team

BSS, Dhaka

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday said the project proposal for construction of a multi-purpose bridge with rail, gas and electricity facilities on the river Padma had already been sent to the planning commission, now awaiting Economic Committee on National Economic Council (Ecnec) approval.

"The project proposal would be referred to the Economic Relations

Division (ERD) after the (Ecnec) approval for foreign funding through the donors or the private sector under build-operate-transfer (BOT) methods," he said this while a delegation of the Paturia-Daulatdia Padma Bridge Implementation Council called on him at his office here.

President of the council and Advisor to the BNP Chairperson, former Ambassador M Rezaul Karim led the delegation.

Huda said the construction work of second bridge on the river Padma would be undertaken just after getting the assurance of funding, an official handout said.

Council members including chief coordinator Ali Newaz Mahmood Khayyam MP, Vice-President M Shamsul Haque, Dr M Shamsur Ali and Secretary General Jamal Uddin Ahmed were present.

Trader's body identified 43 days after his murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a cell phone trader was finally identified yesterday 43 days after his abduction and murder.

Sharif Khan, 23, who ran a small shop in the Stadium market area, was abducted and killed at Madanpur in Sonargaon of Narayanganj district on February 18.

He had been considered a missing person until yesterday when two accused revealed the fact.

Sonargaon police recovered the body on the day he was murdered and handed it over to Anjuman Mufidul Islam for burial as an unclaimed body after few days.

On Monday, police arrested Babul, a cell phone mechanic, and Monir alias Phensi Monir from Sayadabad area after Sharif's family filed a case against them with Motijheel police.

During the interrogation, the two confessed that they had killed Sharif at Madanpur and dumped his body there.

They also identified the body in a picture taken before the burial of Sharif.

Millennium hospital opens kidney dialysis unit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A private hospital on Tuesday inaugurated a modern kidney dialysis unit with intensive care unit attached to it.

The Millennium Heart and General Hospital launched the haemodialysis and continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) services at a ceremony in the city.

Kidney specialist Prof. Harunur-Rashid was present as chief guest and Maj. Gen. (retd.) Ziauddin Ahmed was the guest speaker at the inaugural ceremony.

Prof. Jahangir Kabir, director of National Institute of Kidney Diseases, and Prof. Habibur Rahman of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital were also present.

With six dialysis machines installed, the hospital can offer services to 24 kidney patients a day.

Each dialysis with acetate fluid will cost Tk 1000 and each dialysis with bicarbonate fluid Tk 1800.

The Millennium hospital is the only centre in the private sector where CRRT with haemodialysis is available.

Classical music evening on Apr 3

An evening of Hindustani classical vocal music by Malashri Prasad and fusion music by Johar Ali Khan and his group will now be held on April 3 instead of today, says a press release.

The programme will begin at 6.30pm at the auditorium of Indian High Commission, House # 25, Road # 96, Gulshan # 2.

The High Commission of India in association with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations has organised the show.

Complimentary passes can be collected from the Information and Culture Wing of the high commission at House # 2, Road # 142, Gulshan # 1.

REMOVAL OF EXTRA BUMPERS

SC extends stay for another 6 months

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday extended the stay for another six months the March 8 High Court order that had directed the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) to remove extra bumpers from motor vehicles.

The order came upon a petition filed by Kamruzzaman Chowdhury, a car owner, who challenged the legitimacy of DMP to issue directive

for removing additional bumpers.

The DMP directive came in July last year on the heels of a tragic accident caused by extra bumper of a car on Mirpur road, in which Dr Mohammad Shajahan Ali of Orthopaedic Hospital was killed.

Dr M Zahir with ABM Nurul Islam appeared for the petitioner while Additional Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali stood for the government.

Police, criminals exchange fire at Gulshan, one held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police exchanged gunshots with a gang of criminals travelling in a microbus at Gulshan in the city on Tuesday night, injuring the driver.

They also arrested the driver Sanwar Hossain who received three bullets in his abdomen and left leg but failed to nab the others.

Sanwar is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital under police guard.

Police said they signalled the driver to stop near Bishwa Road crossing in Badda at about 11:00pm after they received an instruction from the police control room. But the driver did not comply and sped away.

The microbus was intercepted by a team of police at Gulshan Circle 1 but the criminals started firing at the police who returned the fire, said duty officer of Gulshan Police Station.

Police said they arrested the injured driver, but three others managed to run

away.

The duty officer said police tried to stop the vehicle after they got a message that the driver filled his microbus with petrol from Uttara filling station but sped away without paying.

Police seized the microbus.

Dr Nurunnahar passes away

Professor Dr Nurunnahar Fyzzunnessa, former teacher of the Institute of Education and Research of Dhaka University, passed away yesterday at the age of 72, says a press release.

Family members of Dr. Nurunnahar have requested all relatives, friends and admirers to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Dutch-Bangla Bank has donated Tk 50,000 to Rifles Public Shishu Niketan, Lalmonirhat for the construction of a library. Photo shows Md Yeasin Ali, managing director of the bank, handing over the payment order to Tanvir Ahmed, secretary of the school, in the city recently.

DHAKA TODAY

Photo exhibition

A 12-day photography exhibition by Sarah Rubensdorffer, Silvia Beres and Jakob Berr on the fire in Karail slum in Dhaka will be inaugurated. Venue: Goethe Institut (German cultural centre), Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm. The exhibition will remain open from 2.00pm to 8.00pm daily except weekend and holidays.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Ab Tak Chappan' (2004), an American film titled 'Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World' (2003) and a Spanish film titled 'Tie Me Up Tie Me Down' (1990). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm, 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Dress exhibition

Banga Sundaram organises a three-day summer dress exhibition. Venue: Drik Gallery, House # 58, Road # 15A, Dhanmondi. The exhibition will remain open from 3.00pm to 8.00pm daily.

Women lawyers' convention

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association will hold the first women lawyers' convention to celebrate its 25th founding anniversary, with Chief Justice Syed Jilur Rahman Mudassar Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10.00am.

Kick-off ceremony

The official kick-off ceremony of the Disaster Preparedness Programme in Bangladesh will be held with Disaster Management and Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf as chief guest. Venue: Civic Inn, Gulshan. Time: 5.00pm.

Conference

The 21st conference of Bangladesh Society of Anesthesiologists will be held with State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mizanur Rahman Sinha as chief guest. Venue: Dr Milon auditorium of BSMU. Time: 9.00am.

ISD rally

The Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal will hold a rally as part of its 'Democracy and Basic Rights Protection Day' programme. Venue: Muktagang. Time: 4.00pm.

Discussion

The Chhatra Parishad organises a discussion on 'Free thinking and student politics of today'. Venue: Parishad office, 4 Dilikusha C/A (first floor). Time: 3.00pm.

Condolence meeting

A condolence meeting in memory of Pir Habibur Rahman will be held, with NAP President Prof. Mozaffar Ahmed in the chair. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Photo exhibition

A 12-day photography exhibition by a Japanese photographer on the lifestyle of Bangladeshi girls will be inaugurated. Venue: Shilpakala Academy. Time: 6.15pm.

Handcrafted automobile show

Old Ramians Welfare Association organises a handcrafted automobile show by Nizamuddin Awlia (Leepu). Venue: Dhaka Residential Model School and College, Mohammadpur. Time: 11.30am.

Roundtable

Bangladesh Short Film Forum organises a daylong roundtable to mark the 20 years of alternative film movement in Bangladesh. Venue: German cultural centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am.

BNWLA workshop

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) will hold a regional workshop on 'Prosecution of women and child trafficker'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali. Time: 9.15am.

ATTACK ON CU STUDENTS

Punishment to culprits demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different student organisations yesterday demanded immediate arrest and punishment to policemen and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists responsible for the attack on general students of Chittagong University (CU) on Tuesday.

Condemning the attack, opposition Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL)

blamed the JCD for establishing reign of terror across the country. The BCL leaders at a rally demanded immediate arrest of Jamaat lawmaker Delwar Hossain Saidee for inciting the attack on Prof Humayun Azad. The BCL will continue its movement until Saidee is brought to justice, they said.

Presided over by BCL DU unit President Delwar Hossain, the rally was addressed by BCL President

Liaquat Sikder, General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu and Hemayet Uddin Khan Himu.

JSD-backed BCL also held a separate rally to protest attack on CU students. The BCL will form a human chain on the DU campus today to press home its demands for arrest of Saidee and an end to distortion of history. BCL President Shariful Kabir Swapan, General Secretary Ali Hasan Tarun and Sazzad Hossain spoke.

Progatishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), a combine of left leaning student organisations, also held a rally on the campus to protest the attack on CU students. It demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits responsible for the attack. The PCJ also demanded immediate release of its president Khalequzzaman Lipon.

Bangladesh Chhatra Federation (BCF) at a rally demanded punishment to the policemen and JCD men responsible for the attack on students of CU. BCF leaders Kaniz Fatema, Moniruddin Pappu and Taslima Akther spoke.

Meanwhile, Chhatra Andolon (CA), student wing of the Krishok Sramik Janata League, led by Bangabir Kader Siddiqui held its first rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. The CA leaders vowed to launch united movement through transparent student politics to meet the demands of general students.

Saifuddin Saif, Shariful Islam Shimul, Rezaul Karim, Mahmudul Hasan Masum and Sazu Ahmed spoke.

One to die in Mehedi murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

One person was sentenced to death in the sensational BNP leader advocate Mehedi murder case here yesterday.

The Speedy Trial Tribunal of Barisal handed down the death penalty to Kamal Sardar, 38.

Judge Md Abdul Matin, however, acquitted 18 other accused as the charges brought against them were not proved.

Hundreds of people were waiting outside the court during the reading of the verdict. A big contingent of police was also deployed to avoid any untoward situation.

According to the prosecution, Advocate Mahmud Hasan Mehedi, a leader of the district BNP, was

gunned down in front of his house on March 28, 2000.

DB Inspector Mahabubul Islam filed two chargesheets against the accused, one under Section 302 of Bangladesh Penal Code and another under Explosive Substances Act, after Jahannara Begum, mother of Mehedi, filed a case against 19 people.

Both the cases were being tried in the first Additional District Judge's Court. Later, the murder case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal.

Special PP Majibur Rahman Nantu appeared for the state while advocates Enayet-Peer-Khan, Abdul Mazid Munshi and Abdul Mannan Akand defended the accused.



PHOTO: STAR

A volunteer checks a man for diabetes at a camp near the National Museum in Shahbagh yesterday. The Diabetics Association of Bangladesh organised the camp to offer free test on the occasion of Diabetes Awareness Day.