

# 5 to die in Keraniganj double murder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday sentenced five persons to death for killing a man and his son on July 13 in 1993 at Barishur in Keraniganj.

The convicts are Shafiqul Islam, Mohammad Arif, Mohammad Masud, Mohammad Nazrul Islam alias Nazu and Mister alias Chhoto Mister.

Of the convicts, Shafiqul Islam was present in the court during the delivery of the judgement while the rest were tried in absentia.

Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah

## DU exams postponed

UNB, Dhaka

All examinations of Dhaka University under course and traditional systems scheduled for today have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

Fresh date of the exams will be announced soon, says a DU press release.

of the Fifth Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court gave the verdict for killing Sharif Hossain and his son Khokon.

"All the accused have been given death penalty twice for killing the two victims but one of the sentences will be executed subject to the confirmation of the High Court," the judge said.

The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the date of their arrest or surrender, the judgement said.

Earlier, the prosecution and defence completed their arguments and court recorded statements of 18 prosecution witnesses.

On July 13, 1993 the five accused went to Sharif's shop at Barishur Bazar in Malopara at about 3:00am and demanded goods on credit. On refusal, the gang knifed Sharif with lethal weapons.

Hearing Sharif's cry, his son Shahjahan rushed to the spot from the nearby room. Shahjahan was also assaulted when he tried to save his father. The miscreants stabbed Sharif's seven-year-old son Khokon indiscriminately as he came forward to rescue his

father and brother Shahjahan.

Sharif and Khokon died on the spot while Shahjahan recovered his health after having treatment for a long period.

Victim Sharif's elder son Abdur Rahim filed a murder case with Keraniganj Police Station accusing Shafiq and four others the same day. The investigation officer pressed charges against Shafiq and four others on August 26, 1994.

During the investigation, two accused and seven witnesses gave judicial statements disclosing names and involvement of the accused in the case.

Rahim, complainant of the case, was present in the court and expressed his satisfaction at the verdict.

District Public Prosecutor (PP) Mohammad Mohsin Miah and Special PP Ilias Shah Ratan appeared for the state.

## Barrister Ishtiaq memorial foundation established

National Professor Sufia Ahmed, wife of late Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, handed over a cheque for Tk 10 lakh to the president of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed at a simple ceremony on July 18 to establish a Trust Fund titled Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Memorial Foundation, says a press release.

The objective of the Foundation will be promotion of research in the areas of legal and constitutional history and cultural history of Bangladesh.

Council members as well as the general and life members of the Asiatic Society, members of late Barrister Ishtiaq's family, wellwishers of the late lawyer, scholars and academicians attended the function.

Prof Emajuddin presided. Speakers paid glowing tributes to late eminent lawyer and threw light on the life and works of Barrister Ishtiaq.



State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury speaks at a seminar on e-Governance in the city yesterday. On his right is Khan M Ibrahim Hossain, director general of DoE, and on his left are Syed Tanveer Hussain, secretary of the environment ministry, and Mollah Waheeduzzaman, project director of BEMP.

## SEMINAR ON E-GOVERNANCE State minister slams DoE officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury yesterday came down heavily on the officials of Department of Environment (DoE) for not updating its database.

The Department of Environment has initiated a major e-governance programme in the environmental sector, but the database has not been updated since 2001.

"We have come to power in 2001, but why latest information regarding environment was not incorporated into the database," the state minister asked the officials at a seminar on e-Governance organised by the DoE and Bangladesh Environmental Management Project (BEMP).

The BEMP is a five-year capacity building project funded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Jafrul Islam warned that action would be taken against those who would not perform their duties properly.

"A section of officials are responsible for damaging environment," he added.

The state minister also asked the officials to update the database within 60 days and maintain transparency in their duties.

He also said the government is trying to take some realistic steps to improve the environment.

Syed Tanveer Hussain, secretary of the environment ministry, said the aim of e-governance should be to improve the government service.

Masood ur Rahman, information technology manager of BEMP, said most DoE staffs at the divisional offices have received training on computer literacy.

Presided over by DoE Director General Khan M Ibrahim Hossain, the seminar was also addressed by BEMP Project Director Mollah Waheeduzzaman, Canadian Operation Manager of BEMP Gerry Post and Project Director of Sustainable Development Networking Programme Asaduzzaman.

The state minister also distributed certificates among the participants who received DoE information technology training programme.

## TRADER ABDUCTION JU serves show cause notice on student

JU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Meer Musharraf Hossain hall, Jahangirnagar University (JU), yesterday served a show cause notice on a student for his alleged involvement in the abduction of a vegetable trader.

On Monday night, Savar police arrested four people from the JU campus on charge of kidnapping trader Mostofa who was later freed.

The hall authorities issued the notice on Mahfuzur Rahman Panna, a resident of the hall, as he gave shelter to two abductors and confined the trader to his room.

A student of statistics department, Panna was asked to reply by July 25.

A three-member committee headed by hall warden Aniruddha Kahali was also formed to investigate the incident.

Savar Police yesterday produced the four in court with a prayer for seven-day remand.

However, police could not arrest Panna who gave shelter to two kidnappers in his room.

## 1450 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1450 people on various charges from across the country in last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law enforcers also recovered 14 firearms, 12 other weapons and 125 bullets and filed 10 cases against 19 people under the Arms Act.

## Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of artist Kazi Abul Kashem will be held at his home at 49 Lake Circus, Kala-bagan, after Asr prayers tomorrow, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend milad mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

# Monitoring cell to check corruption in LGRD ministry

## TI Bangladesh report reviewed

BSS, Dhaka

Directives have been given to keep LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry free from corruption.

The directives came at a meeting of the ministry that reviewed the recently published report of the Transparency International Bangladesh.

The meeting has decided to set up a monitoring cell and increase supervision to check corruption in the ministry and all departments under the ministry.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and State Minister of the ministry Ziaul Huq Zia were present at the meeting.

The meeting also directed the

officials concerned to dispose of files in two days, take action against corrupt officials and employees and enquire into news items on corrupt practices published in different dailies.

The meeting was told that the transfer order of officials and employees should not be considered as punitive steps. In this regard the person accused of corruption should be temporarily sacked, if necessary, and measures should be taken against him or her through quick investigation.

The meeting directed all the service-oriented organisations to enhance their quality of service and involve the people with field level activities.

# 'Contraceptive usage rises amid static TFR'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a United Nations Family Planning Association (UNFPA) conference yesterday said use of contraceptives has substantially increased to 54 percent in the last 10 years despite stagnation in total fertility rate (TFR).

They observed that there is a gradual decline in permanent or clinical contraceptive measures while non-permanent method of contraception continues to be popular.

Speakers at the Conference on Dissemination on TFR Studies in Bangladesh said the current rate of average family size in Bangladesh is 3.3 in contrast to the desired level of 2.2.

Presenting a paper on 'Fertility Transition in Bangladesh', Ubaidur Rob, country director of the Population Council, pointed out three major reasons attributed to the difference between actual and desired number of children in Bangladeshi families. The factors are sex or gender preference, high infant and child mortality and contraceptive failures.

About 40 lakh pregnancies occur in Bangladesh per year, of them 10 lakh cases are terminated by induced abortion. About one-third of all births are unintended, he said referring to several studies.

He also showed that 3 percent users discontinue pills, 1.3 percent

discontinue injectable and 6.5 percent discontinue condoms due to birth control failures.

The TFR was highest in Sylhet region and lowest in Khulna region while the national average is 3.3. Rob said adding that about 1.1 crore oral contraceptive pills are used in Bangladesh every month.

Sultan A Aziz, director of Asia and Pacific division of the UNFPA, later formally launched a book on 'Fertility Transition in Bangladesh: Evidence and Implication'.

Lauding Bangladesh's continued commitment in population control, Aziz, who is currently visiting Bangladesh to attend a regional UNFPA conference, said this is the right time for increasing advocacy at grassroots, focusing on imams who play a key role in mobilising community.

AKM Nurunnabi of Dhaka University's population science department and Dr Nashid Kamal, head of population and environment department of Independent University, made an introduction to the International Conference on Population and Development.

Dr Fazlur Rahman, director general of Family Planning Directorate, Rukhsana Khandokar, executive director of Khan Foundation, and Dr Sabir Ahmed, also spoke with Sumeta Mukherjee, country representative of the UNFPA, in the chair.



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) President Hasanul Haque speaks at a rally at Muktagh Bazar in the city yesterday. The rally was organised to mark the Taher Day.

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\* Source: ASEAN PC shipments, IDC's Asia/Pacific quarterly PC Tracker, 1Q 2004.

## BRAC starts flood relief operation

The Brac, a leading NGO, has started its emergency relief operation in 24 flood-affected districts.

It has sanctioned Tk 2 crore initially for the relief work. In some areas, part of the relief operations is being implemented through local NGOs.

The 16 severely affected districts covered by the current Brac operations are Sylhet, Sunamganj, Netrakona, Gaibandha, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Bogra, Manikganj, Sirajganj, Madaripur, Munshiganj and Shariatpur.

The Brac is also identifying severely damaged households for rehabilitation.

**ASA programme**  
Meanwhile, another non-government organisation ASA has launched assistance programme for three lakh flood-affected families in its operational areas.

It will distribute free essential drugs, ORS and water-purifying tablets. Each family will also receive Tk 500 in interest-free loan.

The NGO will spend the amount from its own resources.

## Obituary



He is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter.

His qulkhwani will be held at his home at 17/B Fuller Road after Asr prayers tomorrow.

## Shahpar Ali Khan Molly



Shahpar Ali Khan Molly, daughter of Sahjad Ali, died at Charing Cross Hospital in London on July 20, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, son, daughter and brother to mourn her death.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Gulshan Central Mosque after Zohr prayers today.



## BCIC International Press Tender Notice

Managing Director, Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd. (CUFL), Chittagong invites sealed bid under one envelope system as under on C&F(C) Chittagong basis:

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02.	CUFL/PUR(F)-308/OS-1062 date 11.7.2004	Sets of Stud Bolts & Nuts	12-9-2004	Tk. 200/=	Tk. 41,000/=
03.	CUFL/PUR(F)-306/OS-1075 date 11.7.2004	Induction Motor (75KW)	15-9-2004	Tk. 100/=	Tk. 12,000/=
04.	CUFL/PUR(F)-306/OS-1079 date 11.7.2004	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Lead Acid Industrial Battery	15-9-2004	Tk. 100/=	Tk. 20,000/=

Bid documents may be purchased from (i) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha CA., Dhaka, (ii) BCIC, Branch Office, 6, Agrabad CA., Chittagong and (iii) CUFL, Rangadia, Chittagong. No tender documents will be sold on the opening date of the tender. Bids with bid-bond will be received in the office of the General Manager (Commercial), CUFL up to 11.00 AM of the due date and will be opened immediately thereafter in public. Due to unavoidable circumstances, if the tender cannot be opened in the schedule date, the same will be opened on the next working day.

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