

MANIK SAHA MURDER CASE Trial begins at Speedy Trial Tribunal next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Trial of Journalist Manik Saha Murder Case will begin at the Speedy Trial Tribunal in the middle of next month after gazette notification of the absconding chargesheeted accused and attachment of their property to the state.

The Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate has asked for docket of the case.

The date for the trial will be fixed after receiving the case docket from the investigating officer (IO), said a source of Khulna Metropolitan Police.

On July 5, the court accepted the chargesheet against the 12 accused. Officer-in-Charge of Khulna Police Station Mosharraf Hossain, who is also the IO of the case, sub-

mitted the charge sheet on June 20.

Out of the 12 accused charged with murder and explosion of a powerful bomb, four are now in Khulna District Jail.

They are Sumon, Ali Akbar, Bomaru Akram and Bulbul. An FIR-named accused Abdur Rashid Sheikh alias Tapu Sheikh was killed during the investigation.

Meanwhile, Khulna district and city units of Bangladesh Jubo Union has submitted a memorandum to the home minister demanding inclusion of the names of the mastermind of the murder in the charge sheet.

Manik Saha, a stringer of BBC Bangla Service and Khulna Correspondent of the New Age, died in a bomb attack near the local press club on January 15.

\$ 50,000 USAID grant for flood victims

UNB, Dhaka

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the immediate provision of 50,000 dollars to assist the Bangladesh government in flood relief efforts.

Charge d' Affaires and USAID Mission Director Gene George said, "This initial effort is an expression of the support of American people for those in Bangladesh suffering as a result of the severe flooding this rainy season. The US government has assisted in the past and stands ready when an appeal is made to the international community."

The assistance will be channelled through Care, one of USAID's long-standing in-country partners, to provide operational and administrative support for the distribution of food and non-food survival packets to the severely flood-affected communities of northern and central Bangladesh, said a special release of the US Embassy.

The USAID is conferring on a

regular basis with the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and its implementing partners to further assess needs and identify appropriate opportunities for additional assistance.

Citibank donates Tk5 lakh

Citibank, the banking arm of Citigroup, donated Tk 5 lakh to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to mitigate the suffering of the flood victims, says a press release.

Mamun Rashid, chief executive officer of Citibank Bangladesh, handed over the cheque to Maj. Gen. (Retd) ZA Khan, chairman of BDRCS, on Thursday.

CARE distributes food

CARE Bangladesh has distributed high-protein compact food to more than 72,000 families in flood affected Sunamganj, Sylhet and Gaibandha districts with the financial support of the USAID, says a press release.



Sammito Nari Samaj stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding scrapping of the bill regarding the parliamentary seats reserved for women.

SHAMSUNNAHAR HALL ATTACK

Make probe report public, demand DU students

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday demanded that the probe report on police atrocities on female students be made public immediately and the persons responsible be punished.

Marking the second year of police atrocities at Shamsunnahar Hall, activists of student organisations and female students of the hall came out on the campus to join demonstrations.

In the early hours of July 23 in 2002, police stormed into the hall and dragged about 100 students from their rooms after breaking

down the hall gate. The law enforcers hurled abuse at them and charged batons indiscriminately, leaving more than 50 female students injured.

The hall students covering their faces with black clothes marched in a silent procession on the campus yesterday. A photography exhibition on the police atrocities and a discussion was also held at the hall auditorium.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the opposition Awami League, took out a candlelight procession from Central Shaheed Minar to Shamsunnahar Hall gate in the

early hours of yesterday, but police intercepted the procession at Shibbari intersection.

The BCL will also stage a demonstration at the Aparajeyo Bangla and hold a photography exhibition on police atrocities at Battola tomorrow.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union took out a candlelight procession at around 8:00pm.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Jatiya Chhatra Dhara also staged demonstrations on the campus.

The organisations called on the students to launch movement against all forms of repression and torture at the university.

Khulna Motor Bus Malik Samity calls off strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Motor Bus Malik Samity has called off its indefinite strike.

Announcing the decision, Abdul Gaffar Biswas, president of the samity and senior vice-president of Khulna city BNP, said the strike was called off from yesterday noon in view of the devastating floods in the country.

He accused the City Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman of ordering the closure of Ferryghat Bus Terminal on Thursday illegally and threatened of dire consequences if the decision is not withdrawn by July 31.

At a press conference yesterday, Abdul Gaffar alleged that the armed policemen were very rowdy while carrying out the order of the mayor for closing the bus terminal.

He said the police also damaged the bus counters, shops and restaurants at the terminals.

When contacted, the mayor said he would not bow down to any threat centring the closure of the bus terminal.

Workers' Party leader arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Natore police arrested a Workers' Party leader from Puthia in Rajshahi yesterday.

Kayes Uddin, president of party's Puthia upazila unit, was arrested from his house at Mollahpara, but police did not disclose the reason for his arrest.

A duty officer at Naldanga police station in Natore said that Kayes was arrested on the order of Natore police superintendent and he was kept at Natore Sadar police station.

Earlier, Natore police arrested Abul Kalam Azad, president of Bangladesh Communist Party, Puthia upazila, from his house on the night of July 15 without showing any reason.

Death anniversary

Today is the first death anniversary of Atahar Hossain, founder-headmaster of Shomaspur High School at Khoksa in Kushtia, says a press release.

Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his home on the occasion.

A discussion will also be held on the school premises after Asr prayers.

Prof Abdul Majid

Today is the sixth death anniversary of Professor A B M Abdul Majid, says a press release.

He was the acting controller of examination, Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board.

A milad mahfil will be held at a mosque adjacent to Azimpur graveyard after Asr prayers.



Students of Dhaka University march in a silent procession on the campus yesterday demanding that the probe report on police atrocities at Shamsunnahar Hall be made public.

Clinker-laden barge capsizes in Pashur river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A barge laden with 360 metric tons of clinkers worth over Tk 12 lakh capsized in the river Pashur on Thursday.

The clinkers of Holcim Cement Factory at Mongla Export Processing Zone were loaded in the barge Parveen from the Asian Prime, a flag carrier of Panama, now anchored at Herberia of Mongla Port.

The sunken barge could not be salvaged till 5:00pm yesterday, port sources said.

The barge capsized due to mechanical faults in which four of its employees were injured. They are Lal Mia, 50, Ismail, 48, Shahidul, 26, and Zahid, 30.

Shahidul is undergoing treatment at Mongla Upazila Health Complex while three others were given first aid.

A general diary was lodged with Mongla Police Station in this connection on Thursday.

A source of Holcim Cement Factory has alleged that the barge did not have fitness certificate and it sank after the misappropriation of clinkers in which its owner is involved.

Investigation has already begun and sunken barge will have to be salvaged at any cost to know whether there were clinkers when the barge reportedly capsized, said the officer-in-charge of Mongla Police Station.

Outlaw arrested in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A wanted outlaw belonging to Purbo Banglar Communist Party was arrested from a house at Bharalipara in the city yesterday.

The outlaw, Abdus Samad, known as Lal Samad, is an accused in more than five murder cases, police said.

Tipped off, a police team of Rajshahi city special branch arrested Samad in a raid on the house of one Hanif in Choto Bongram area. Samad move to this house few weeks ago after police raided his rented house in Mushbul area.

Quoting Samad, police said he joined the outlawed group in 1973.

'Indigenous people still facing persecutions'

Odhikar training ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous people have been facing various forms of persecutions as they did not get constitutional recognition of their rights, said Moni Swapan Dewan, deputy minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, yesterday.

The ethnic communities will have to continue their struggle for existence unless and until the majority people pay respect to their culture and heritage, he said at the closing ceremony of a three-day training workshop in the city.

The deputy minister said the existence of indigenous people are at stake although they took part in

the Liberation War.

Odhikar, a human rights organisation, arranged the training on capacity building of the ethnic groups on human rights monitoring and documentation.

A total of 16 representatives from seven indigenous communities took part in the workshop.

Chaired by Odhikar Director Masud Alam Ragib, the closing ceremony was also attended by Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, executive editor of the Daily Sangbad, as special guest.

Later, the deputy minister gave away certificates among the participants.

45 lakh people suffering from glaucoma

Minister tells seminar

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday called for raising awareness about glaucoma, saying that about 45 lakh people have been suffering from the disease in the country.

The government is ready to extend all-out cooperation to prevent the disease, he said at a seminar on 'Creating awareness about glaucoma to avoid blindness' as chief guest at the LGED Bhaban.

Bangladesh Eye Care Society organised the seminar, with its President Dr Mustafizur Rahman in the chair.

The minister urged the Society to put forward recommendations to prevent glaucoma.

Editor of The News Today and President of Jatiya Press Club Reazuddin Ahmed was present as

special guest.

Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Dr M Nazrul Islam and Dr Neaz Rahman presented three papers on glaucoma at the seminar.

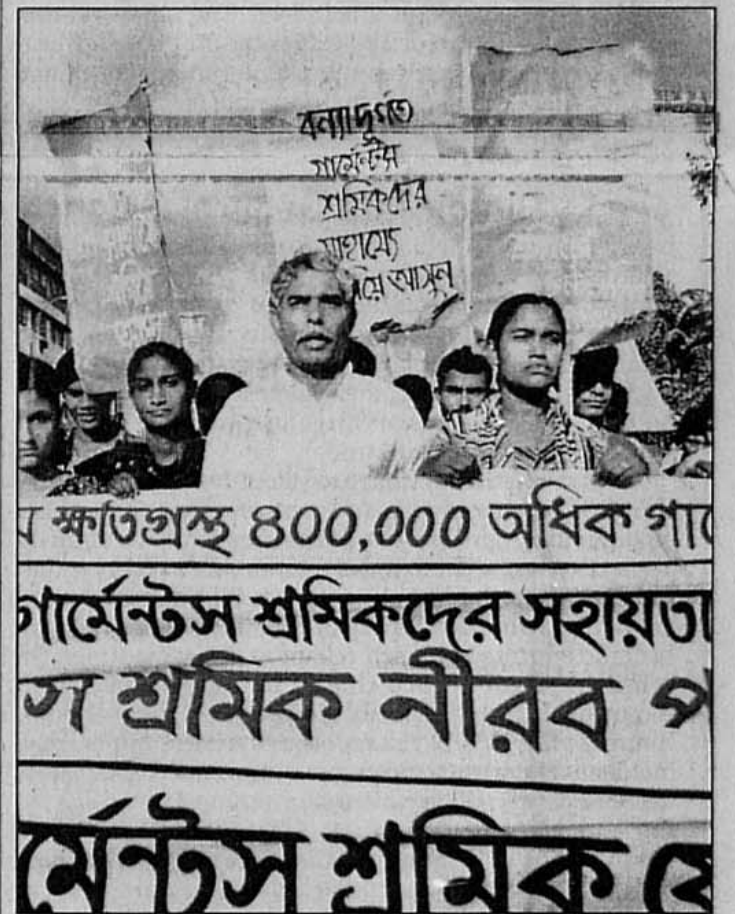
A person could be infected with glaucoma generally after 35 years and it is curable if diagnosed at the initial stage, eye specialists say.

Over 1,700 held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,729 more people on various charges during their ongoing countrywide drive in last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

They also recovered six firearms, four other weapons and 20 rounds of bullet, and filed six cases against 11 people under the Arms Act, said a Police Headquarters press release.



National Garments Workers' Federation took out a procession in the city yesterday calling on the factory owners to provide financial assistance for the workers affected by raging floods.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Dhaka and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period, Met offices said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamati and the lowest of 24.4 degrees at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:46pm today and rises at 5:25am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.1	26.7	69	69
Chittagong	32.7	25.0	73	71
Rajshahi	32.6	24.4	92	73
Khulna	32.5	26.2	82	76
Barisal	32.0	26.4	80	77
Sylhet	33.2	25.0	76	80
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.0	72	82

DHAKA TODAY

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a British film titled 'Moonraker' (1979). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6:30pm.

Drama

Kanthashilin, a literary forum, will stage a technical show of the drama titled 'Karigar' directed by Khaled Khan. This is a Bangla version of 'Master Builder' by Henrik Johan Ibsen. Venue: Mohila Samity Auditorium, New Bailey Road. Time: 7:00pm.

Forum meeting

A forum meeting of Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samannoy Parishad will be held. Venue: WVA Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10:00am.

Founding anniversary

The seventh founding anniversary of Odhikar Sahitya Parishad, a literary organisation, will be held. Venue: Seminar room of the Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 5:00pm.

Installation ceremony

The Rotary Club of Dhaka Midtown organises the 27th installation cere-

Seminar

The Centre for Women and Children Studies, in collaboration with the Australian High Commission, organises a seminar on 'Experience sharing of the Counter Trafficking School Campaigns' with Australian High Commissioner Lorraine Barker as chief guest. Venue: BIAM Auditorium, 63 New Eskaton. Time: 9:30am.

Reception

A reception to the students of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College, who made brilliant results in SSC Examination this year, will be held with LGED and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: College Auditorium, New Bailey Road. Time: 9:30am.

Workshop

A workshop on the formulation of a five-year-long anti-tobacco plan will be held. Venue: Kamafuly Hall of Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management Foundation, New Eskaton. Time: 9:00am.

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