

SC dismisses govt plea to exempt MP's brother from trial

UNB, Dhaka

Reazuddin Ahmed Moni, brother of Nasiruddin Pintu, MP and nine others will be tried in a double murder case as the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed the government appeal for exempting them from trial.

Earlier, the Speedy Trial Tribunal and High Court had rejected similar appeals.

Police had prosecuted 23 people including Reazuddin for shooting Amir Shakil and Sentu to death in a dispute over Eid cattle market lease

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

A one-man effort to feed the hungry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A resident of Gulshan feeds about 1,400 flood victims once a day and will continue it until the victims can return home.

The individual, who did not want to be named, said as he noticed uncoordinated relief efforts for flood-hit people moving to the area, he engaged his cooks, drivers and domestic helps to make a list of the victims and prepare food for them.

He collected a tent and set up a kitchen in it and several sanitary toilets beside the roads in the area.

The beneficiaries are poor people from the inundated slums in Badda, Shahadatpur and Taltala, now living on pavements in the posh Gulshan residential area. These people, mostly day labourers, have built makeshift shelters on the pavements.

The samaritan said he will supply the enlisted flood-victims one meal

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Transparency key to ADP spending: IMF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The blown up spending, particularly through the Annual Development Programme (ADP), laid out in the budget for 2004-05 would be unfeasible without improved fiscal transparency and accountability, and better project management, observed International Monetary Fund (IMF) Deputy Managing Director (DMD) and Acting Chair Takatoshi Kato.

While presenting the fund's second review of Bangladesh's economic performance under its three-year Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility

(PRGF) to IMF Executive Board on July 28, Kato also noted that achieving the revenue target of FY05 would require a much strengthened tax administration.

The IMF acting chair emphasised 'timely actions to expand the Large Taxpayers' Unit to cover the value-added and withholding taxes' and fundamental reforms in the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to underpin the programmed revenue targets for attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

Kato lauded the government for its 'sound macroeconomic management'

-- keeping inflation in check and maintaining robust growth -- that has kept the PRGF-supported programmes on course, despite a difficult political environment.

He however said there were some slippage in implementing key reforms in the nationalised commercial banks and the tax administration.

In a press release on Friday the IMF said, after the second review of the PRGF, "The Executive Board approved Bangladesh's request for a waiver on the non-observance of structural performance criteria on

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Flood-hit Dhaka cry for drinking water

BISHAWJIT DAS

Scarcity of drinking water in many of the flood-hit areas in and around the capital is compounding the woes of the affected people more than anything else, calling for urgent supply of water purifying tablets and medicines for water-borne diseases.

Hundreds of people in more than 30 villages along the Balu and Turag rivers in Dhaka and Narayanganj yesterday were found waiting in front of their inundated houses with jugs, pitchers and other containers to collect drinking water from relief workers.

Most people in the flooded villages have to take contaminated floodwaters

as tube-wells are under water.

"We can go without food for a couple of days but scarcity of drinking water has endangered our lives. We are now exposed to various diseases including diarrhoea," said Kanai Lal of village Chatiyari in Narayanganj.

"We have no choice but to take floodwater for the last 20 days. We are not getting water purifying tablets in the locality," said Solaiman of Keodala village.

Only a few villagers, who have boats, were collecting water from the lone tube-well in the area still to be submerged.

"Why do they (relief workers) bring drinking water for us?" asked house-

wife Yasmin of the area. "Give us water purifying tablets and medicines for the diseases we are exposed to," she added.

To The Daily Star, locals complained of the spread of diarrhoea and skin diseases.

Manzu Morshed, coordinator of disaster management of CARE Bangladesh, said water-borne diseases will pose a serious problem in the areas if the affected people do not get pure water for cooking, drinking and such other uses.

A government official also admitted scarcity of pure water in the area.

Mohammad Alaiddin, deputy

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

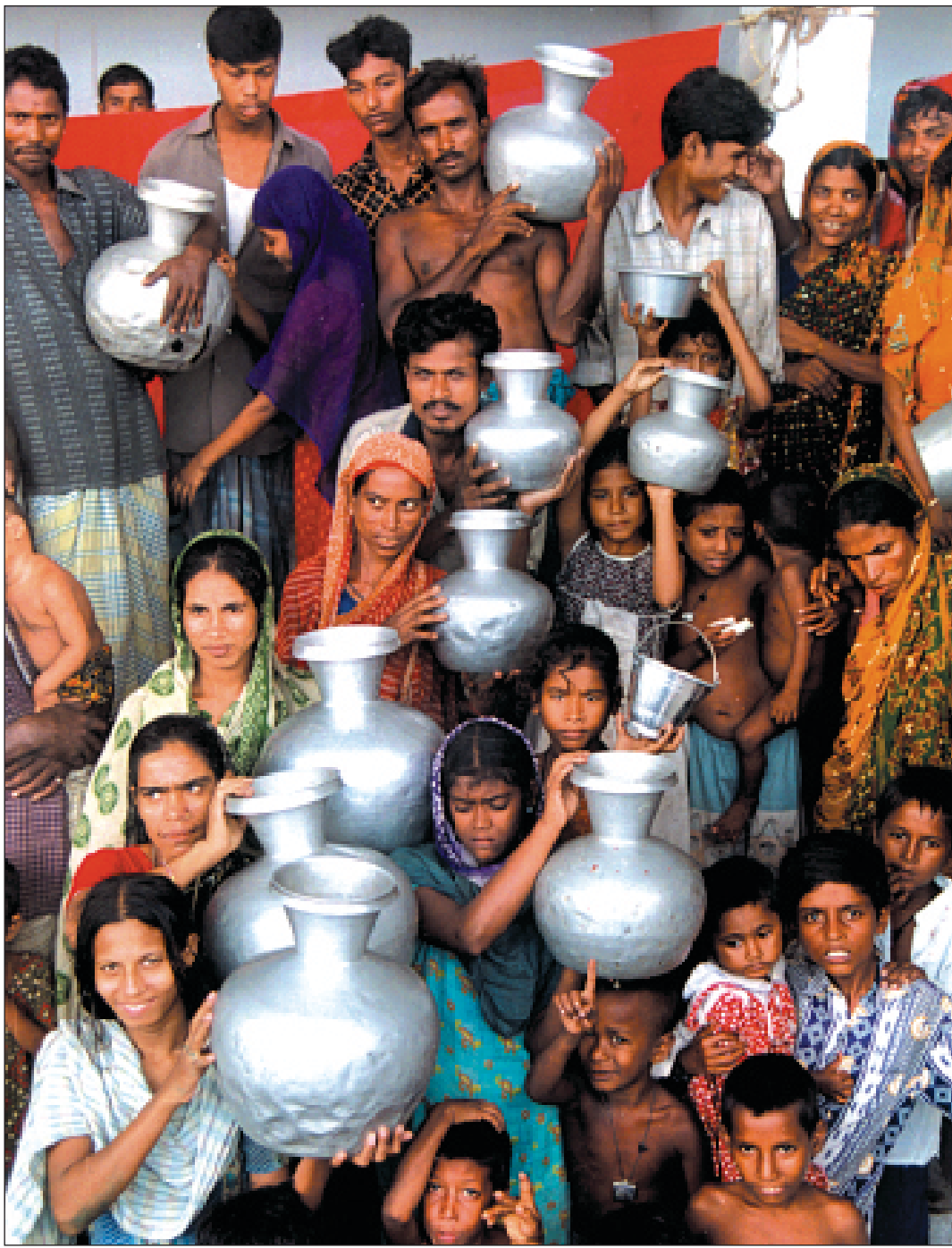


PHOTO: STAR

Flood-hit residents with aluminium pitchers wait for supply of drinking water at Kamalapur stadium in the capital yesterday.

BNP MP acquitted of bomb case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday acquitted ruling BNP lawmaker Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anne and 31 others in a bomb explosion case filed five years ago.

Judge Mohammad Sirajul Islam of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the judgment in presence of two of the accused, Golam Mostafa and Mahbubul Haq. The rest including Anne and Habibunnabi Soheli, have been absconding since the incident.

The court earlier declared Anne, Soheli and others fugitives and issued arrest warrants against them. But they did not appear before the court.

In his order, Judge Sirajul Islam observed that 21 prosecution witnesses in the case including former Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders Ishaq Ali Khan Panna and Bahadur Bepari did not appear to testify for the last three years. Only one police witness testified but he did not mention any name of the accused in his statement. So the accused were acquitted of the charges for lack of adequate evidence.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Sudan gives in to UN sanction threat

REUTERS, Addis Ababa

Sudan said yesterday it would comply with a UN resolution threatening it with sanctions if it failed to restore security in the crisis-hit Darfur region.

"Sudan is not happy with the (UN) Security Council resolution, but we will comply with it to the best of our ability," Osman Al Said, Sudan's ambassador to the African Union, told a news conference in Ethiopia.

"Because should we fail to do so, we know our enemies would not hesitate to take other measures against our country," he added, in remarks that backed down from Sudan's initial rejection of the vote.

"Sudan accepts the decision of the (UN) Security Council on Darfur, because it is a member of the United Nations (news - web sites) and has no other options. Sudan is not going to be another Israel, which has no respect to the decision of the world body," Al Said added.

However, Al Said lashed out at the United States which drafted the resolution giving Khartoum 30 days to

disarm and prosecute marauding Arab militia or face sanctions.

"Sudan completely rejects the motive of the US government in sponsoring the resolution because it has nothing to do with the welfare of the people of Darfur or of Africa," he said.

He said US interest in arid, impoverished Darfur had more to do with winning the black vote in November's US presidential election.

Instead, he called on the 53-member AU to mediate a solution to the Darfur problem. "This is an African problem and it should be solved by Africans," Al Said said.

Schoolgirl abducted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Abductors picked up a girl from her school gate in Gomdandi in Boalkhali upazila yesterday.

Soheli, a youth of the neighbourhood, along with his sister called Rupashi Chowdhury, 13, daughter of Rabindra Shil, out of her school and took her to an unknown place at around 11:00am, police said. She is a student of class nine at Gomdandi Pilot High School.

Rupashi's brother Rinku Shil filed a case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Boalkhali Police Station.

Police could not rescue the girl until yesterday evening.

Shrine caretaker burnt to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Khadem (caretaker) of a shrine was burnt alive as unknown assailants set fire to his tin-shed house in Anwara upazila Friday night.

Police recovered the charred body of Mohammad Hossain, 48, also known as Hossain Fakir, in the early hours of yesterday and sent it to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for autopsy.

Police said masked criminals stormed into the one-room house of Hossain, beat up him and torched the house leaving him inside with his arms and legs tied.

Neighbours rushed to the spot to find Hossain completely burnt and informed police.

Deserted by his wife a few months back, Hossain used to live alone in the house, police said.

Police could not say the reason behind the killing. The officer-in-charge of Anwara Police Station said, "So far as we know, Hossain didn't have enmity with anyone in the locality."

Customs staff, his family sued for graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A clearing and forwarding (C&F) agent yesterday sued a customs official and three of his family on charge of misappropriating Tk9 lakh.

Metropolitan Magistrate Wahidul Islam Khan yesterday heard a petition regarding the matter and ordered the officer-in-charge of Bandar Police Station to record the petition as an FIR (first information report) after initiating a probe into the incident.

C&F agent Mahamudul Haq filed the case against Principal Appraiser (export-1) Mofizur Rahman of Chittagong Customs House, his wife and two sons with the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM).

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

Children play on a cot yesterday as the devastating floods have displaced their families and forced them to move onto footpaths in Gulshan, which are yet to go under water.

UP chairman shot dead in Rajbari

BSS, Rajshahi

A union parishad (UP) chairman was shot dead by unknown assailants at Singa Alipur Bazar under Dadshi Union of Rajbari Sadar upazila last night.

Police and locals said a gang of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

TRANSPORT WORKERS AGAINST TOLL 1 killed, 100 hurt as cops fire on pickets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A Jubo League leader was killed and 100 others were injured, 25 of them critically, in a clash between pro-strike pickets and BNP activists during a transport strike here yesterday.

The dead was identified as Md Rezaun Islam Tusher, 32.

Gopalganj Zila Motor Sramik Union called the indefinite transport strike protesting illegal toll collection and condemning a move to occupy the transport workers' union office.

When a passenger bus bound for Dhaka reached Bangabandhu Road Island near Agrani Bank in the morning, the picketing transport workers halted it and as BNP leader and Latifpur Union Parishad Chairman Zafar Hossain Kalu confronted those pickets,

a fierce clash broke out.

When police fired tear gas shells and rubber bullets to disperse the clashing crowd, a bullet hit the Jubo League leader leaving him dead on the spot. Of the injured, Gazi Hafizur Rahman Liku, 32, district Chhatra League secretary, Farid Ahmed Daria, president, Gopalganj Press Club, BM Alam Siddiquee, 30, Lenin, 29, Tanu, 32, Habibur Rahman Mollah, 25, Tuku, 25 were admitted to the Gopalganj Sadar Hospital with condition stated to be critical.

Police personnel were patrolling the town to defuse tension following the clash.

Different educational institutions, shops and business establishments in the town remained shut down yesterday.

Hartal for gas passes off in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad (RRSP) enforced a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the city yesterday demanding gas supply to the district through pipeline.

The Awami League and left-leaning 11-party alliance extended their support to the strike that almost switched off normal activity.

Police arrested two pickets --

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
August 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-47	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		